

East German SPD rejects coalition call

Kohl maps out new order for Europe

By Anne McElvoy in East Berlin, Ian Murray in Bonn and Andrew McEwen

Boosted by his personal triumph in the East German election campaign, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday mapped out the future of a new peace order in Europe in which a rapidly united Germany would be the key player.

But, in the aftermath of the centre-right's sweeping victory, politicians in both East and West Germany continued to squabble over the pace of reunification. East Germany's victorious Christian Democratic leader Herr Lothar de Maizière yesterday invited the Social Democrats and the tiny Liberal Alliance to join him in a grand coalition to lead the country into unification. But the Social Democrats, smarting from their unexpected defeat in Sunday's elections, immediately turned him down.

The leader of the Social Democratic Party, Herr Ibrahim Bohme, said that he was keeping to his election pledge not to form a coalition including the most right-wing of the three Conservative Alliance parties — the German Social Union.

The Alliance, which fell just short of an absolute majority, could rule in coalition with the motley collection of Liberal parties. But without the participation of the Social Democrats they will have

difficulty raising the two thirds majority in the Volkskammer (parliament) necessary to change the East German constitution and thus speed up progress towards unification.

The outcome of the East German election delighted Mrs Margaret Thatcher and pleased Washington and other Nato capitals, but evoked only a lukewarm response from Moscow.

The Prime Minister called it "a great day for East Germany and for Europe" and attributed part of the credit to Chancellor Kohl who played a prominent campaigning role.

"The result is a tremendous victory for the centre-right. I know how hard you personally worked for that outcome and it is the greatest possible credit to you," she said in a letter to Herr Kohl.

The US and British Governments believe that the outcome greatly increases the chances that a united Germany will be a member of Nato. Although Moscow strongly opposes this, it has found no support from the new East European democracies.

The next round of talks between the "two" Germanies and the "four" victorious Second World War allies will take place in East Berlin, probably before the end of the month. From now on the Soviet Union will be alone, within these "two plus four" talks, in voicing any objection to a united Germany remaining inside Nato.

Herr Kohl said yesterday that he hoped it would be possible to complete these negotiations on the external aspects of reunification by the time the special summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meets, probably towards the end of the year but before the West German elections planned for December 2.

As the Chancellor also made plain yesterday, he believes that a united Germany must not be neutral but firmly anchored in Nato. Looking ahead, however, he wants to see the development of a new security system in which both Nato and the Warsaw Pact could co-operate and this is the likely line the two Germanies will adopt in the "two plus four" talks.

The result has also strengthened a belief in London and Washington that the Warsaw Pact is in its final phase. Some predict that it will be wound up before the end of the year. But the Soviet news agency

Tass suggested that the involvement of West German politicians in the campaign amounted to "interference".

"The results of the elections were obviously influenced by the massive interference in the election campaign of West German political parties — primarily the Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union," it said.

Almost taking the West German election result in December as a foregone conclusion Herr Kohl now appears certain that he will realize his ambition to be the first Chancellor of a reunited Germany. The victory in East Germany by his alliance, he announced after a CDU meeting, would be followed by a CDU victory in the first elections of a united Germany. These would probably be held some time next year.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine who was nominated yesterday by the West German SPD to be the Chancellor's challenger in December, however, predicted that failure to stabilize East Germany's economy could torpedo Herr Kohl's electoral prospects.

Herr Lafontaine said that the Chancellor had given the impression that a vote for the CDU would be a vote for the quick Deutschmark. "People's expectations in both East and West were now immensely high. Disillusionment could undermine the CDU's position."

Herr Kohl must now quickly find money to improve living standards in East Germany without raising taxes in the West. The acid test will be whether he can stop the flow of East Germans coming West.

In the East Herr de Maizière declared that the newly elected Government would dismantle the Berlin Wall as soon as possible "as a symbol of our growing togetherness".

Asked whether the wall would be replaced by a fortified border as planned by the former government, Herr de Maizière replied: "I think that these days a fence would be a waste of money."

Herr de Maizière who is likely to be sworn in as East Germany's first elected Prime Minister when he has formed his government promised that currency and economic union with West Germany would be forged as soon as possible.

Kohl's new order, page 11
Full results, page 11
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Mark Almond, page 14

Gorbachov acts on the Lithuanian challenge

By Our Foreign Staff

President Gorbachov ordered the Soviet Government yesterday to take measures against Lithuania's declaration of independence, Soviet television reported.

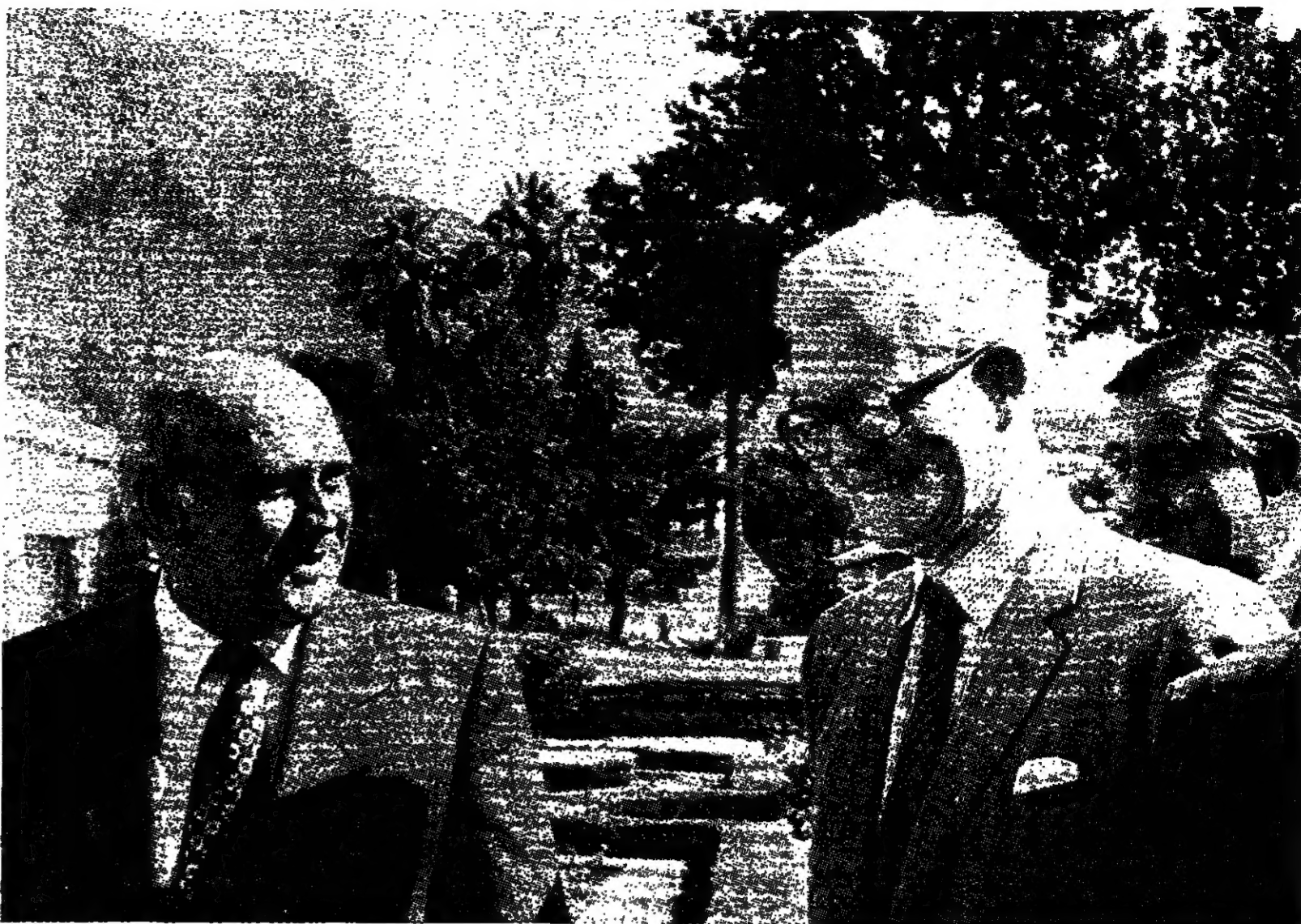
It was not immediately clear, however, what action would be taken against the Baltic republic's leadership, which insisted yesterday that its week-old declaration of independence was legal and called for talks with Moscow

on full secession from the Soviet Union.

The reply to President Gorbachov's ultimatum was brought to Moscow by a Lithuanian delegation only hours before the expiry of the deadline. The Lithuanians also rejected a resolution on Lithuania passed last week by the Congress of People's Deputies.

Lithuanian reaction, page 22

Hurd meets de Klerk for talks on aid



Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, right, with President de Klerk at Cape Town yesterday, discussing British aid to the Cape Flats area. Village raid, page 9

Howe warns of tough Budget to aid economy

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

Sir Geoffrey Howe signalled a tough Budget today by promising that the Government would not flinch from difficult economic choices for the sake of electoral expediency.

In words calculated to bring home the gravity of problems facing the economy, the Deputy Prime Minister drew a parallel between his "instantly unpopular but critically necessary budget of 1981" and the task facing Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He told a by-election meeting at Mid-Shropshire: "Today, the economic challenge we face is certainly less daunting than in 1981. But it requires and will receive the sort of political commitment which we have shown only this Conservative government is prepared to give."

"Others would flinch the challenge, avoid the difficult choices, let things rip. They would be seduced by the gimmicks and convenience politics that cost us so dear in the past."

Conservative MPs were preparing themselves for an unexciting Budget which will

do little to improve the Government's chances of saving the Mid-Shropshire seat in Thursday's by-election.

Most expect some increase in the overall tax "take", with a possible failure to index tax allowances in full, some increase in excise duties and a possible lifting of the ceiling for employees' National Insurance contributions.

Anything less than a modest increase in taxation, they believe, will run the risk of upsetting the City and endangering the pound.

An environmental element is expected to be reflected in tougher taxation on company cars and possibly increased excise duty for bigger cars.

Most Conservative MPs expect the Chancellor to do something to soften the impact of the community charge by increasing the savings limits below which pensioners and married couples qualify for poll tax relief.

However, MPs are hoping Mr Major will leave what is bound to be a comparatively dull Budget with new in-

centives for savings, including a possible end to the composite rate tax on bank and building society savings, which penalizes non taxpayers who cannot recover it.

There were hopes that the Chancellor would give tax relief for child care to improve the lot of working mothers. However, there was little hope of a lifting of the £30,000 ceiling on mortgage tax relief.

Sir Geoffrey said the Government would not jeopardize its revival strategy by courting short-term popularity.

● The pound fell sharply in foreign exchange markets as a strong West German mark combined with political uncertainties ahead of the Mid-Shropshire by-election to undermine the currency. Sterling fell nearly 4 pence to its lowest ever level of DM2.7114. It also fell 1.25 cents against the dollar to close in London at \$1.6115.

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Political sketch, page 22
Sterling hit, page 23
Comment, page 25

Special team for war crime cases

By Sheila Guna, Political Reporter

The cases against 301 suspected Nazi war criminals are to be investigated by a Government-funded team of police officers with the prospect of mounting Britain's first trials within the next year.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, disclosed yesterday that a team of nine officers will build on the work done by Sir Thomas Hetherington and Mr William Chalmers in gathering evidence against the suspects, most of whom are in their eighties and came originally from the Baltic states.

The unit under the control of Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, will work closely with the Crown Prosecution Service and call on help from historians and linguists.

Its investigations will follow up confidential evidence to the Hetherington/Chalmers inquiry against those suspected of mass murder who sought refuge in Britain after the Second World War. Much of it was provided by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre,

which is devoted to tracking down Nazi war criminals.

The Home Secretary yesterday assuaged much of the Tory backbench unrest by emphasizing that it would be wrong to establish special legal procedures for trying war criminals, and denied he would do so. But he insisted that the Bill, clearing the way for the first trials to take place, was "not just making a fine gesture with no substance". He believed that fair trials could be mounted, even after 50 years.

Although most MPs welcomed the Bill, there is widespread unease in both Houses at proposed amendments to the Scottish law reforms legislation to bring Scottish law into line with English law.

The amendments would clear the way for witnesses, many living in the Soviet Union and Israel, to give evidence by a live television link and through video recordings.

Parliament, page 7
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INSIDE

Art thefts 'ransom'

Art works worth £130 million, stolen at the weekend from a Boston museum, look likely to be "ransomed" for insurance. Although no demand had been received last night, experts said the number of robberies carried out for an insurance payout was increasing worldwide. Page 13, 15

Appeal granted

The Court of Appeal yesterday cleared a former Manchester police officer, jailed for 17 years for robbery and firearms offences. His trial was described as a travesty of justice based on fabricated police evidence. Page 3

Polluted seas

Twenty marine scientists say the discharge of untreated sewage into the sea is a serious health hazard, contradicting previous views. Page 5

Regime relents

President Mengistu of Ethiopia, whose regime was once Africa's most rigidly Marxist-Leninist, now says a multi-party system would be acceptable in his country, torn by economic collapse and civil war. Page 9

Could do better

The London Stock Exchange hopes to improve its service to small investors after an internal committee said retail customers have had "a raw deal since Big Bang". Page 23

Tackling fame

James "Buster" Douglas, the world heavyweight boxing champion, is learning to live with fame. Page 30

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Labour in reselection switch

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour Party leaders last night made the first moves towards abandoning the system under which all its MPs have to face reselection every Parliament.

The dismantling of one of the main Beattie constitutional changes pushed through the party in the early 1980s began as Labour's organization committee considered an analysis by Mr Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, of the reselections completed so far in the present Parliament.

The analysis, which will form the basis of a paper to be

Continued on page 22, col 5

Design faults in disaster boat

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Survivors of the Marchioness riverboat tragedy last night demanded a public inquiry into the disaster as design faults and lack of action by the Department of Transport were blamed for the accident.

The long-term design faults and the failure of the vessels' lookout system are highlighted as the immediate causes of the collision between the dredger Bowbelle and the pleasure boat Marchioness on the Thames in which 51 people died.

According to leaked extracts of a draft report from the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau no individual was especially responsible for the accident.

"There was no wilful misconduct in either vessel contributing to the collision,"

the finders of the loss of life. In as much as personal fault was responsible for the accident, that fault lies jointly with those in direct charge of the two vessels at the time and with those responsible for both the perpetration and the acceptance of their faulty design," the inspectors say in the report.

The extracts were leaked to Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey. He told a press conference in the House of Commons that if the regulations had been enforced properly "the collision and deaths would not have happened".

Mr Iain Philpott, aged 26, whose girlfriend and 12 other friends died in the disaster, demanded a public inquiry.

Design faults, page 2

Just show some respect to the big enchilada

By Philip Howard
Literary Editor

Is the big enchilada watching you? And if so, is that a respectful way of referring to the Editor of *The Times*? The *Thesaurus of American Slang* is published in the United Kingdom by Collins on Thursday, as an awful warning of the way we may be talking soon. Slang follows the soap opera and pop song across the Atlantic, because there are more of them mauling the language over there.

Item: "The next time your big enchilada jerks your chains, don't act like a candy-ass; instead, kick ass, or end up as dead meat in Tap City." Being translated into standard English, this means, approximately: "If your employer vexes you severely, do not behave like a milksop; instead, keep a stiff upper lip, or he will walk all over you." The

thesaurus lists in alphabetical bundles more than 17,000 words and phrases of current American slang that can be expected, in the flow of fashion, to be on our lips shortly. The latest word on American lex suggests that we shall soon be "ansy" instead of excited; instead of compliments, we shall give our friends "warm fuzzies"; the office dogbody will be known as a "low-level Munchkin".

If you believe that all of this slang is coming across the Atlantic to us, you will believe anything. Not all slang catches on, in either direction. Americans, contrary to the popular myth, seem more interested in bottoms than Brits.

On first inspection, one thing that seems to have happened to American slang in the past decade or so is that it has become more violent, sexy and pushy. The thesaurus is edited by Professor Robert Chapman, of Drew

University, who is in his 70s, and therefore quite obsolescent in his conversation. Last night he suggested that in the past 20 to 30 years the traditional sources of American slang for a century or more have dried up. Railroad workers cannot be matched for vivid language by the blue-blazers or suits in the airline industry. Professor Chapman says that the two rich new wells of slang in the States are blacks and yuppies. "Black English is a new and fertile underculture of language. And the young prosperous yuppies go into business and government of our acquisitive culture, and make fun of it in their slang."

Our common language has moved on in the 375 years since the Pilgrim Fathers sailed the ocean blue. But it is going to take some of us a while to come to call the old Ed. the big enchilada.

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Boat design faults are blamed for 51 deaths on Thames

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Design faults which could be traced back 25 years and a lack of action by the Department of Transport after three previous accidents on the Thames were the underlying causes of the Marchioness boat disaster in which 51 died.

However, the immediate cause of the tragedy was the failure of lookouts on the Marchioness pleasure cruiser and the Bowbelle dredger to spot each other until it was too late, according to leaked extracts from a draft report by the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau.

When the men on lookout on the Bowbelle spotted the danger, they could only shout a warning, which could not be heard above the noise of the Marchioness discotheque.

There was no other way of communicating with the skipper, even though the vessel had four hand-held VHF sets, two of which were inoperative, the report says.

The draft report, which has been sent to those named in it to allow them to comment on the findings, lists a further eight contributory factors which caused the disaster last August.

Visibility from the wheelhouse of each vessel was seriously restricted because of their construction. In each vessel, the restricted visibility was caused by the position and design of the wheelhouse and stemmed from inadequate consideration of the needs of the navigator at the design stage in the Bowbelle and at the time of the conversion of the Marchioness.

The difficulties were made worse by the lights of each vessel being made inconspicuous against the background of shore lights and perhaps other craft.

Both vessels were using the middle part of the river fairway and the centre arches of a bridge near Cannon Street station, central London, but neither was necessarily in a place they should not have been.

Clear instructions were not given to the forward lookout aboard the Bowbelle. He made no report when he first noticed the Marchioness, as his instructions were to report a vessel only if he considered it to be a hazard.

The draft report says it is probable that the Marchioness had been seen from the Bowbelle at a relatively early stage but had not been recognized for what it was, perhaps because of the proliferation of other lights.

Further contributory factors were the strength of the tide, the noise from the discotheque party, lack of conspicuous navigation lights on each vessel and the tiredness of the Marchioness's skipper. He had undertaken one discotheque cruise that night but, although he had been on duty

for nine-and-a-half hours, he had spent less than half that time on the river.

The report is critical of the manner in which the Department of Transport dealt with its responsibilities. It says that after a series of accidents on the Thames between 1981 and 1983 action was initiated by the department to improve visibility. "It is, therefore, clear that the incidents of the early 1980s were recognized at the time as providing a warning of the possibility of a major accident... that as time passed the perceived need for special caution gradually relaxed."

The report says: "It is not considered that, in all respects, action taken by the department in the last few years has gone as far as it should have, and in particular it will be clear that it is not considered the steps taken to improve visibility were adequate."

It says that those in charge of the navigation of both vessels concerned must bear a big measure of the responsibility but that others must also share the blame.

"They also stem from failure, widespread over many years among those with senior responsibility in the shipping industry, to look at the design and operation of ships as a complete and integrated whole. No one act is found to have been especially responsible for the accident."

The report recommends that extra staff trained in emergencies to help evacuate passengers should be on vessels, military helicopters on search-and-rescue work should carry infra-red heat seeking equipment. All vessels of more than 40 metres operating above Cherry Garden Pier, central London, by night should carry a light suspended above the bow or on each side illuminating the bow.

All vessels over 40m with a rear wheelhouse, operating above the Thames Barrier, east London, should have a lookout stationed forward at all times and instructed to report all sightings.

Those in charge of Thames passenger launches should be reminded to check frequently astern and to keep continuous radio watch. New regulations should require minimum standards of visibility from the steering position of passenger launches and vessels on the Thames should be required to keep as far as possible to starboard of the fairway.

For vessels on which discotheque parties are held, provision should be made for all sound to be cut out when safety announcements are to be made and there should be regulations on the sound level at the wheelhouse when a discotheque is taking place.

A power in the kitchen



Mrs Margaret Thatcher helping to cook a meat substitute at the Ideal Home exhibition in Earls Court, west London, yesterday. The Prime Minister preferred its colour to the taste.

Call for more safety on BSE

By Michael Horsley, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's trading standards officers yesterday called for further government action to eliminate the risk that the fatal "mad cow" disease might be transmitted to humans.

Mr John Evans, chairman of the quality standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said "far more has to be done" but he welcomed recent moves to increase funding for research into bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and to pay full compensation to farmers who had to slaughter infected cattle.

The institute represents 1,300 of Britain's 1,500 trading standards officers, who are responsible for enforcing laws on food safety, animal health and welfare and the composition of animal feedstuffs.

Mr Evans said there were four areas of concern: the ban on the sale of cattle offal does not apply to calves under the age of six months; sheep remains are still being included in feedstuffs for pigs and poultry; animal feed manufacturers are not required to state in detail the ingredients they use; and there is no ban on the sale of offal from sheep, even those infected with scrapie, the ovine form of BSE.

Mr Gordon Gresty, county trading standards officer for North Yorkshire, who has carried out much of the institute's research into BSE, said: "However remote the risks may be, it seems sensible to close every possible pathway for transmission of the disease to human beings until the results of research now going on are available."

Drop in land sales holds up new hospitals

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Hospital building plans have been halted throughout south-west London, Surrey and West Sussex because of falling land sales and high building costs.

Schemes which have been hit include a 110-bed expansion at Frimley Park Hospital, for west Surrey and north-east Hampshire, which has one of the worst waiting lists in the country. Local MPs plan to lobby Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State at the Health Department, for extra funds.

A programme to move patients out of a large mental illness institution, Long Grove Hospital, Epsom, has also been halted, because the health authority has been told it cannot build any community facilities.

South West Thames regional health authority, which has a projected capital deficit of £39.6 million, expected to raise £40 million in the last year from selling land to developers.

However, managers were told yesterday to stop all schemes where money had not already been committed because the region had only raised £15 million. Building schemes which have gone ahead have cost £6.4 million more than expected and some money has been transferred to the revenue programme which itself is overspent by £11.6 million.

South West Thames is the second region in the South-east to freeze all capital developments. Last month North West Thames Health Authority also put a moratorium on building. The decision, finance directors warn, is likely to be repeated

throughout the country. In recent weeks authorities have agreed on bed closures and reduced services to keep within cash limits by April 1991 when the health service reforms are introduced.

Health service managers will be stuck with a planning blight, unable to rationalize services by building more efficient units, the Health Care Financial Management Association says.

This could result in unplanned short-term cost saving measures to stay within cash limits, Mr Chris Grimes, principal adviser to the association, said.

The association is to survey health authorities throughout the country to see how bad the capital position is.

Mr Andrew Morris, unit general manager at Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, said he was devastated when he heard that the plan could not go ahead. The district has 3,600 patients waiting for hospital treatment; 1,500 have been waiting more than a year.

More people are going to see their family doctor over minor illnesses according to a survey published yesterday from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Those who do are likely to live in urban areas, come from lower socio-economic groups and be married, widowed or divorced, says the report which reflects changes in consulting patterns between 1971 and 1981.

Morbidity statistics from general practice. Third national study: socio-economic analyses (Stationery Office, £10.95)

Jail report calls for 90 changes

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday that an investigation into security at Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, has made 90 recommendations for change in how the prison should be run.

The confidential report, by a prison governor with the Scottish prison service, was ordered after an attempted mass break-out from the jail by republican prisoners last October.

The completion of the report comes amid fresh controversy over allegations of mistreatment of prisoners in Northern Ireland jails by prison staff.

Reports in Dublin yesterday said three prison officers in Ulster had been suspended in the past two years as a result of alleged ill-treatment of prisoners. A fourth was reported to have resigned before his suspension was ordered.

The Northern Ireland Office said two officers are to face court proceedings while another had already been investigated and fined £100. Last week the Irish Supreme Court refused to extradite two convicted terrorists to Ulster fearing they may be ill-treated

France puts in late bid in battle for new tank

by Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

France has decided to make a late entry in the battle for a £1 billion British Army contract to replace the ageing Chieftains, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday.

The surprise move means that Britain's sole tank manufacturer, whose future depends on winning the contract with its Challenger 2 offer, now faces competition from its three big rivals.

Vickers Defence Systems of Leeds is already competing against the American giant General Dynamics, which is offering its Abrams M1A2, and the West German Leopard 2, built by Krauss Maffei.

The decision by the French company GIAT to put forward its new Leclerc tank so late on was "unsolicited", the Ministry of Defence said. But any formal bid would be studied.

France has clearly decided that with defence budgets under severe pressure with the changes in eastern Europe, she could not afford to build a tank just for the French army. One military source also said yesterday: "With all this talk about possible multi-national

sub-contract work on the Leopard 2.

The Leclerc was originally rejected by the British Army more than two years ago because no prototypes had been produced and there were worries about final costs.

However it is now being suggested, according to French sources, that France could buy the British Warrior infantry combat vehicle, produced by GKN in Telford, Shropshire, as an offset deal, should the Leclerc be chosen.

The French will also be leaning heavily on the new Anglo-French defence procurement arrangement, under which each country has been trying to increase collaboration over equipment purchases. The French Army has a requirement for a combat vehicle like the Warrior and one was given a trial in France last year.

Price will be one of the major deciding factors for the MoD.

It is believed that with the arms cuts proposed in Europe, the Army requirement may be reduced from 500 tanks to about 320.

Murder inquiry reopened

Police have reopened their inquiry into the murder seven years ago of the wife of an Essex doctor, Dr Robert Jones, because a new witness has come forward.

Mrs Diane Jones, aged 35, was last seen alive at a public house in Coggeshall, Essex, in July 1983. Her body was found in undergrowth at Brightwell near Ipswich in Suffolk three months later.

Dr Jones was questioned by detectives for 60 hours, but no charges were laid against him.

Safety seating

Children under two years are to be allowed car-type safety seats on passenger flights from March 30, the Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday.

Airlines will decide whether to provide them. The children have had to be carried on an adult's lap and restrained by a safety belt.

Closure fight

Residents living near the Queen's Norfolk estate at Sandringham are opposing plans to close a public road to improve security and privacy.

Norfolk County Council wants to shut School Road, which skirts the estate, to prevent tourists looking into the grounds.

Freezer deaths

The South Shropshire coroner recorded verdicts of accidental death on three young brothers who died trapped inside a disused freezer on a smallholding near Ludlow.

Mr Tony Sibcy said it was possible the boys had watched a similar incident on the soap opera *Neighbours*.

Young citizens

The Invesco MIM-Ross McWhirter Young Citizens' of the year awards were yesterday presented to Heather Lane, aged 10, of Nottingham, Wendy Smith, 17, of Preston, Helen Evans, 14, of Speke, Liverpool and Shaun O'Neill, 17, of Rotherham.

Miners lobby

Miners lobbied Parliament yesterday objecting over coal imports and opposing privatization.

Mr George Bolton, Scottish NUM president, protested at coal imports from China. Mr George Rees (South Wales NUM) said that no private pit owner could treat miners worse than British Coal.

Tip victory

Villagers at Little Bealings, near Ipswich, yesterday won a long-running battle to stop Suffolk County Council restarting waste dumping at a nearby tip. Permission for the dumping was refused by the Department of the Environment.

Go ahead for whisky salvage

By Kerry Gill

An attempt to raise thousands of bottles of whisky from the SS Politician, which sank off the Outer Hebrides island of Eriskay almost 50 years ago, is to go ahead, it was announced yesterday.

A Glasgow consortium formed to salvage the wreck, which gave rise to Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*, said shares in the company would be allocated later this week.

The consortium, SS Politician Pk, had failed to raise the £500,000 it wanted. Yesterday however Mr Jeremy Brough, the company's chairman, said it had more than £400,000 which he considered ample for the salvage scheduled to begin in June.

The SS Politician sank in the Sound of Eriskay in February 1941 during a gale while en route for Kingston, Jamaica. The ship was carrying a cargo of whisky, and a reputed £1.5 million worth of Jamaican currency.

Many bottles were looted by islanders but Mr Brough believes thousands remain.

Cool reception for private rail funds

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Government attempts to mobilize private sector capital to help finance proposed new rail links for London have received a cool reception from property developers.

Mr Wilfrid Newton, chairman of London Regional Transport, said yesterday that the precedent set by the Jubilee Line extension from Green Park to Stratford via Canary Wharf in Docklands, in which a group of developers led by Olympia and York put up £400 million towards the £1 billion cost of the new line, was unique and unlikely to be repeated.

The Department of Transport had made known its willingness to allow the private sector to influence route alignments and station locations in exchange for a "significant financial contribu-

tion" to the cost of new lines. However, a growing number of critics say that this is unlikely to materialize.

A lukewarm response from the private sector would be a grave disappointment to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, who has given his support to the radical idea that businesses and developers who benefit from new infrastructure schemes should shoulder some of the projects' costs.

The consequence of a poor private sector response towards the new lines could be an acrimonious conflict between Department of Transport and Treasury officials over the estimated £3 billion needed to finance the new rail projects identified by the 1989 Central London Rail Study, transport analysts say.

Parkinson takes a drive into future

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

The world's biggest car company yesterday showed Mr Cecil Parkinson the kind of car which could run on his expanded highways system, yet still please the green lobby opposing his plans to build more roads.

General Motors gave the Secretary of State for Transport a test run in its Impact electric car, a vehicle with futuristic lines and, its makers say, the acceleration of a sports car.

It has a range of about 130 miles on one charge and could be in production within two to three years, GM says. Mr Parkinson was impressed with its quietness and performance.

He said: "If people want to drive their cars, then we must find ways to use less fuel. We have to face up to the problems of the car."

"I think this is a very interesting concept. The car is

not polluting the environment when it is running and therefore offers a very good alternative." It was, he said, "a very civilized car."

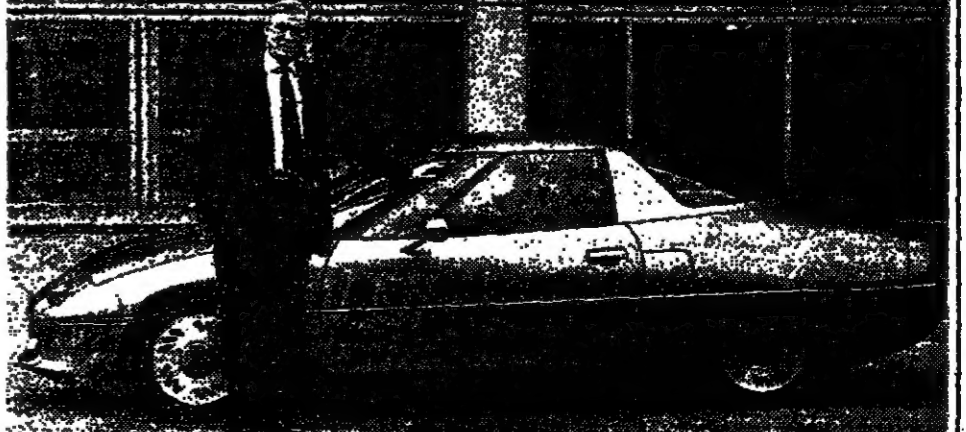
General Motors engineers claim that the car offers running efficiency of about 94 per cent - almost twice that of

a petrol-driven car. Running costs would be about the same as a conventional car.

The 32 lead acid batteries, running down the centre of the car, can be charged from the mains in four to five hours and leave enough power for 130 miles of running at about

50mph. Mr Alec Proudfoot, an associate engineer with GM's Aerovironment subsidiary, which designed Impact in California, said: "We believe that the Impact shows that electric cars could be put into production. We make our decision soon."

JAMES GRAY



Mr Parkinson with the prototype Impact electric car. "A very civilized car," he pronounced.

BP employees shocked by job cuts in City head office

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

BP's latest exploration into the field of "reducing organizational complexity" was received with ill-disguised hostility and sullenness yesterday among the 2,500 employees of its 35-storey City of London landmark office who learned that almost a half of them are to lose their jobs.

The losses, part of a strategy to "reposition the corporation in approach and style for the 1990s", were announced by Mr Robert Horton, chairman of BP. He said the 1980s had been a period of great progress

but the challenge for the 1990s would be to meet the "changes and surprises which lie ahead".

The extent of those surprises was made evident by the sharp-suited employees as they tried to digest the news at hostilities within the shadow of the company's headquarters.

At the Penny Black small groups of them under instructions not to talk to reporters sat around tables trying to comprehend how a mighty oil company, a flagship of British enterprise and expertise, could decide to dispense with them in a way they considered deeply flawed.

In The Red Lion other BP employees who had received a letter

outlining their position were more forthcoming. One man, who said his department no longer existed, said: "We are shell-shocked and bitter."

He added: "Some people have been told they are out but others have been given a financial inducement to stay on while their departments are wound down but without any guarantee of job security."

"We have seen all the television ads of BP under the sea, on the ice-caps and in the deserts. I bet they won't show ads of their employees on the dole."

Yesterday's announcement, coming after the loss last year of 1,700 jobs in BP Exploration, is part of the

corporation's "Project 1990" programme aimed at re-shaping the organization and cutting costs.

The changes are part of a strategy by BP to move from Britannic House to modernized, smaller premises in Finsbury Circus. A main change will be the removal of a number of boards and committees to make way for more delegation and personal accountability.

Employees yesterday said that in a largely non-unionized company, this deprived them of any mechanism to protect them against the unfair decision of a senior manager.

BP said Project 1990 aimed to concentrate activities into four core

businesses: oil exploration and production, oil refining and marketing, chemicals and nutrition, and a greater focus on regional markets.

The company said: "There is no longer a requirement for a large head office, with associated service units, engaged in activities more relevant to the multi-business approach."

The job losses come only eight days after Mr Horton became chairman. He was known to feel BP needed radical restructuring to cut bureaucracy and inefficiency.

The redundancies are across the board, and involve some executives earning more than £60,000 a year. BP shares fell 7p to 333p at the news.

BBC BUDGET CALL
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0898 900 050

Life term for rapist who killed heiress 13 years ago

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Stephen Murphy, chairman of the Greater Manchester police authority, said yesterday the two senior officers had been suspended.



Miss Shepherd's body was found on April 18, 1977. Professor James Cameron, a pathologist, found that she had died from asphyxiation caused by acute pressure on the left side of her neck which broke several bones.

st sues pol

Mr Mackay said they became "Britain's two most wanted men".

Mr Mackay said they became "Britain's two most wanted men".

The other winner was Mrs Patricia Ratcliffe, of Hun-

Yesterday, the company also announced a joint research project with a Belgium company, Lernout Hauspie Speech Products, to develop several European language versions of the device.



THE BUDGET

0898 100 125

a.m. - 3.00 p.m. Preview
 3.00 p.m. Budget Special
 3.30 p.m. Speech commences

in conjunction with IRN

THE BECKMAN HOTLINE

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Bob Beckman's views and comments
 during the Budget Speech



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THE RICHARD DIMBLEBY AWARD
KATE ADIE



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ANDREW DAVIES



THE HUW WHELDON AWARD
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(Omnibus)
Peter Adam



BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
(ENTERTAINMENT/DRAMA)
MAID MARION AND HER
MERRY MEN
Richard Cullen/David Bell



FILM EDITOR
HOWARD BILLINGHAM
Around The World In
80 Days - Part 5



BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
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MICHAEL CHECKLAND
BBC DIRECTOR-GENERAL 1990

POLLUTION OF THE SEAS

Study of oceans shows pollution link with disease

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The threat to public health and marine life from pollution of coastal waters has increased everywhere in the world in the past 10 years, 20 of the world's leading marine scientists say in an international study published yesterday.

They identify the discharge of untreated sewage as the greatest health and environmental hazard, contradicting the view that there is no obvious link between human disease and polluted sea water.

They reached their conclusion after a global investigation of the open seas and coastal waters conducted for the United Nations Environment Programme.

Professor Alasdair McIntyre, of Aberdeen University, chairman of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, said in London yesterday: "This is the first serious scientific overview by the group of the health of the world's oceans in eight years."

"We no longer accept the earlier view that there was no

demonstrable causal link between human disease and bathing in contaminated sea water.

"Recent epidemiological studies in the United States and in the Mediterranean have cast a new light on the causal relationship between swimming in sea water contaminated with pathogens of faecal origin and disease among bathers," Professor McIntyre said.

It had been thought that such organisms lived only for a short time in sea water but "we are having to recognize this is not the case."

In one extreme case in the United States viruses, including the polio virus, had been found to survive at a dumping site for 17 months after disposal of sewage had stopped in marine waters, Professor McIntyre said.

The group's evidence comes less than a week after controversy arose over a submission to the Commons environment select committee that bathers and windsurfers

on Britain's coasts were at risk from infection from the HIV virus if cuts, sunburn sores and stinging scuffs were exposed to contaminated waters.

Professor McIntyre said that in some circumstances the AIDS virus might survive in sewage-polluted sea water but the chance was probably very slight.

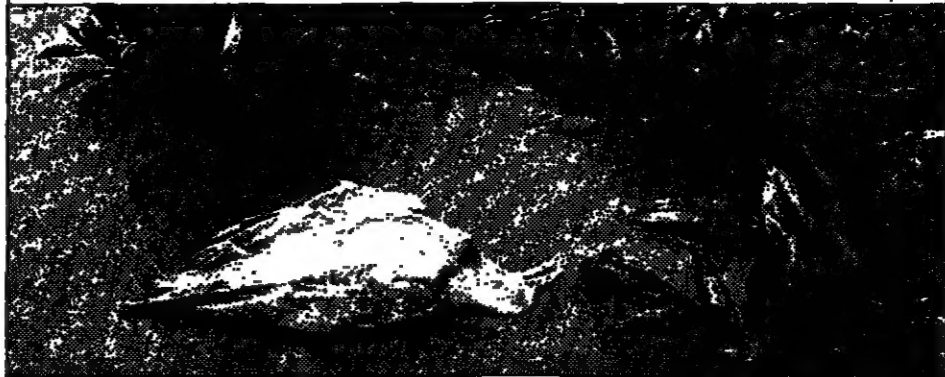
The danger of infection in general was greater in warmer regions and holiday centres such as the Mediterranean where people spent several hours lazing in the water, the professor said. In Britain bathers spent little time, "usually minutes", in the water.

He said an equal health risk came from infected shellfish. Destruction of marine habitats and microbial contamination of beaches and the sea were causing the experts greatest anxiety.

One cause for concern was eutrophication, or over-enrichment of coastal waters by compounds that act as nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrates from agricultural

The sources of sea pollution

Land-based discharges from farming, industry, sewage	44%
Atmospheric pollution, acid rain and engines	33%
Maritime transport and fishing	12%
Dumping of sewage and industrial wastes	10%
Offshore oil production	1%



and industrial run-off. It produces excessive plant growth, or algal blooms, that take the oxygen from the water which in turn kills fish.

Other factors causing concern were the build-up of chlorinated hydrocarbons from pesticides; the dumping of such chemicals as PCBs, particularly in the tropics and sub-tropics; pollution of the sea by plastic litter and of sea accumulations; and the development of marinas, harbours, hotels and other coastal projects — particularly in Mediterranean resorts — with inadequate sewage and waste disposal schemes.

An additional hazard came from the increase in silt and brackishness of two-thirds of the water discharging from

next decade, unless strong co-ordinated national and international action is taken now.

Professor McIntyre said: "Chemical contamination and litter can be observed from the Poles to the tropics and from beaches to abyssal depths."

Too little attention was paid to the consequences of coastal development, but there were also dangers from further inland. Vast amounts of silt and brackish water swept down rivers from deforestation affected the growth of fish life and marine organisms by blocking sunlight and changing the chemical balance of the environment.

"If you consider the continuing population growth, there is good reason to fear a significant deterioration in the marine environment in the

next decade, unless strong co-ordinated national and international action is taken now.

"We are concerned that very low concentrations of toxic substances may produce effects at the sub-lethal level that could build up over long periods with significant damage to ecosystems," Professor McIntyre said.

"The open sea is relatively clean. In contrast, the margins of the sea, from the shore to the 200 to 300-metre water line, at the edge of the continental shelf, are affected by man almost everywhere. Man's fingerprint is found everywhere in the oceans."

The State of the Marine Environment (UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No 115)

Priority shift over danger to the oceans

Scientists have changed their priorities in listing the pollution dangers to the oceans.

The risk from traces of heavy metals from industry — such as cadmium, lead and mercury — that cause brain damage and can accumulate in the food chain is now of less concern.

There is anxiety, however, about the geographical spread of such man-made chemicals as the persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons. They are decreasing in the temperate zones but increasing in tropical areas.

Although high concentrations of those synthetic compounds are still found in sediments off the United States and in the North Sea and in fatty tissue of seals, the experts believe the contamination has not caused irreversible harm.

However, damage was caused to some mammals and fish-eating birds through impaired reproduction.

Instances of serious damage are increasing in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

No areas of the ocean and none of its resources appear yet to have been irrevocably

damaged, but some zones are at great risk. They include the North Sea; Mediterranean areas, particularly off Spain, Turkey, Greece and Italy; the Nile delta; the Amazon delta; a site 100 miles off New York; San Francisco Bay; the Great Barrier reef; the Philippine coral reefs; the Gulf of Mexico and South-east Asia.

In the South Pacific, discarded monofilament nylon drift nets trap and drown dolphins, whales, turtles and seals and cause the deaths of fish. North Pacific salmon meet the same fate.

Although exact figures have not been calculated, the destruction of beaches, coral reefs and wetlands, including mangrove forests, are recorded all over the world.

The coastal "explosion" is a reflection of the population increase, accelerated urban development and faster transport.

Controlling coastal development and protecting habitats will require changes in planning both inland and on the coast, probably involving painful social and political choices, according to Professor McIntyre.

State schools to adopt student teaching scheme

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Teachers should stop singing the praises of other professions while forgetting their own, Mr Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow, said yesterday. "It is time for us to get our own back."

Mr Beer was welcoming the Government's move to extend a work-experience plan introduced into independent schools last year.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced that the scheme would be extended into state schools, backed by £40,000 of taxpayers' money, supported by £50,000 from industry.

From September state schools will be able to pay £100 a week to students in their second or third year of a degree to work alongside teachers, as reported in *The Times* last December.

The scheme is an exact copy of the independent plan launched a year ago, but the Government is anxious not to be seen to be subsidizing the fee-payers.

In state schools half of every £100 paid will come from the Government and half from industry. In independent schools, half will come from the sponsors and half from the schools.

Mr Beer said: "We have been shooting ourselves in the foot by doing our best to provide work experience for our sixth formers, explaining the advantages of all the

professions — the last thing they want to do is to stay in school. The time has come to get our own back, to show them that school is a very different thing if you are on the right side of the desk. There must be very many bright young men and women in our polytechnics and universities who would make great teachers," he said.

"They have been attracted by money but we have to show them that teaching is a reasonably well paid and satisfying job. We have to persuade them how exciting the very noble profession of teaching is."

Mr Beer's scheme attracted 43 students to 33 independent schools who were paid between £70 and £100 a week plus board and lodging in the independent boarding schools. Six of them who had not previously considered teaching have decided to take up full-time training.

Mr MacGregor said: "The £100 seemed the realistic approach as many students traditionally earn money during vacation. I am delighted we can offer the same in our maintained schools."

Both men acknowledge the uncertainties in the scheme. Mr Benjamin Matthews, a history student at Durham University, who worked for two weeks at a boys' public school, said: "I enjoyed the experience...but I have decided to become a solicitor."

Laser-feed may increase growth

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

American scientists are using lasers to make cattle feed more digestible in an attempt to encourage faster growth in animals.

Members of the US Government's Agricultural Research Service at Fort Collins, Colorado, found that laser-treated feed may dramatically boost the speed at which cattle grow.

An increase of 3 per cent in grass digestibility can improve growth rates by between a quarter and a third.

The team developing the laser treatment claims to have improved the digestibility of tall fescue grass by 11 per cent and switchgrass by 14 per cent.

Cows, sheep and other ruminants are able to digest plant fibre, but spend many hours regurgitating and re-chewing the cud to allow bacteria and enzymes in their stomachs time to digest the cellulose.

With poor quality or older feed digestion can take longer. Some nutrients remain trapped inside leaves.

Lasers punch holes in hay, grass or silage so that stomach "juices" can penetrate the plant material faster, allowing the animal to extract nutrients more rapidly.

Dr James Forwood said the research unit was conducting studies to see if laser food caused any harmful side-effects.

News of the treatment comes as British agricultural scientists have developed a way of making images of the digestibility of animal feed, using infra red light. It is

hoped that the technique will be of economic benefit to farmers and ensure that cattle receive a nutritionally sound diet. The work, which is now being offered nationwide, has been pioneered at the Adas Feed Evaluation Unit, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's advisory service, at Drayton in Warwickshire.

Mr Ian Givens, an animal nutritionist, said feed found to be of poor digestibility could be supplemented with nutrients by farmers.

He said the imaging technique appeared to be identifying feed with high levels of lignin, the woody material found in plants.

British agricultural scientists have also launched research to identify environmentally friendly feeds. Cattle and sheep produce large quantities of methane as a by-product of digestion, but methane is a principle gas linked with the "greenhouse effect" or global warming.

Ms Angela Moss, of the Adas Feed Evaluation Unit, said early findings indicated that highly concentrated foods such as protein feeds were the worst offenders. Animals fed on forage, grass, hay and silage, seemed to produce less methane.

Ms Moss, who will be presenting findings at the British Society of Animal Production meeting in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, today, said the effects of mixed diets on ruminants would now be studied. It may lead to the introduction of methane inhibitors in feeds.

NUMBER VIII. TO BE A DISTILLERY MANAGER (OR NOT TO BE).

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Patience is not the only attribute demanded of a distillery manager.

(Though the length

of the whisky's maturation may make it seem so.) As a

leader, he must enthuse

his work-force. And, as

a successful businessman, he must

placate his book-keeper and order-taker.

Such a diversity of roles may explain

Ian McGregor's life-long involvement

in his local 'AM DRAM' (the Amateur

Dramatic Society of Tain) as producer,

director and actor. And if asked to

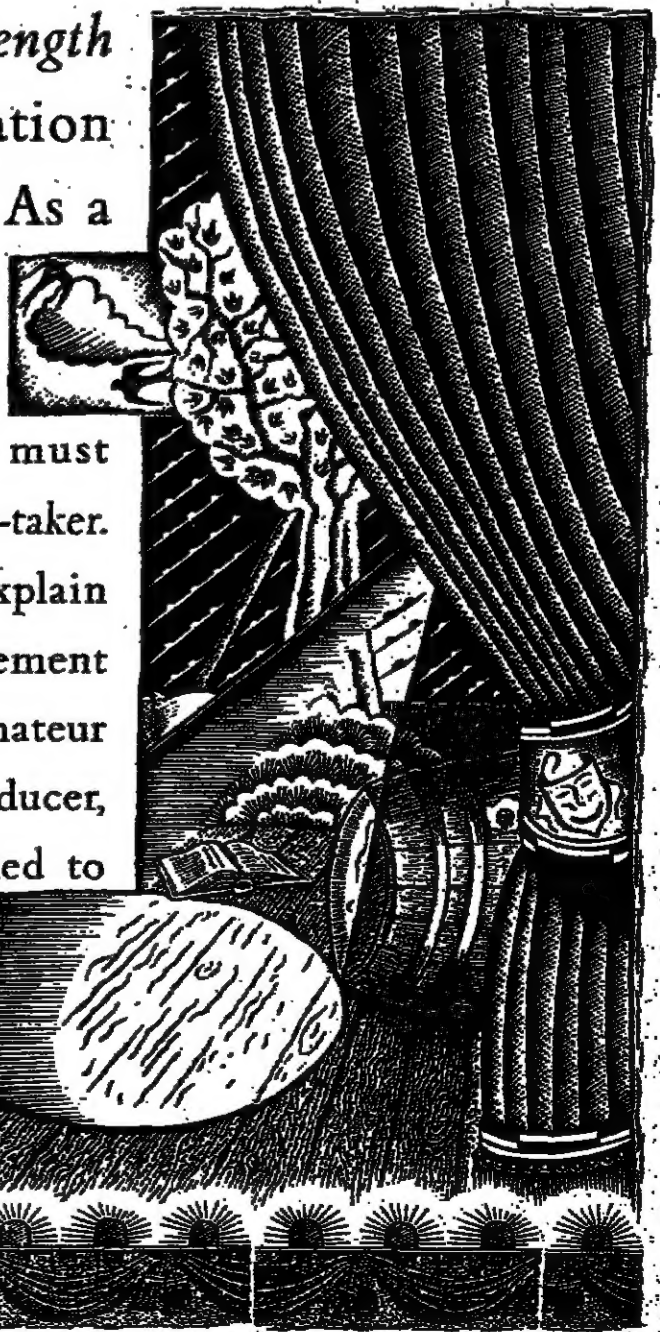
disclose the reason for his delight

in 'treading the boards' he replies

wryly, "The only DRAMA in

a production should be that

which occurs upon the stage."



*HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

Ministers face law suits over capping

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Government was yesterday confronted with the certain prospect of a High Court action against any attempt to single out the Labour-controlled London boroughs for poll tax "capping".

Along with law suits, Mrs Margaret Hodge, leader of the Association of London Authorities (ALA), predicted months-long administrative chaos as capped councils withdrew one set of poll tax bills and tried to adjust their computers and billing systems to send out others.

She said capping would force inner-London boroughs, already struggling to accommodate educational responsibilities being inherited from the Inner London Education Authority, to abrogate their statutory obligations to provide schooling, social services and street cleansing and maintenance. This would require the courts to judge the reasonableness of action taken by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mrs Hodge said the London boroughs were already seeking the advice of lawyers, both individually and as the ALA. "The Government appears to be making up the rules."

Under the local government finance Acts, the Department of the Environment has greater latitude than under the old rate-capping system to choose which councils, if any, it will cap. Technically, the caps are imposed on council budgets but the object is to force councils to revise their poll tax levies downwards.

Whitehall is empowered to apply different criteria to inner-London boroughs than to outer ones and different selection criteria once again to shire districts and counties. Most shire districts are excluded from capping because the law absolves those local authorities with budgets of less than £15 million a year.

The City of London is also excluded, which is perhaps as well because it is on course to spend nearly £1,800 per head of population in excess of Whitehall's spending norms

yet simultaneously will be £12,122 per head below its approved budget.

Mr Patten has at least four methods of selecting councils for capping, measuring either against Whitehall's estimate of what a council needs to spend to provide services or against the officially approved budget. The Government can either work with percentages, which tends to throw up Labour-controlled shire districts such as Norwich and Middlesbrough, or with actual cash which tends to identify the Labour inner-London boroughs.

One problem for the Government is that while it would be easy to catch in its net such places as Greenwich, Lambeth, Islington (where Mrs Hodge is the leader) and Camden, it might also embarrass the Conservatives who rule in Kensington and Chelsea by trapping them, too.

Kensington's spending in 1990-91 is likely to be about 16 per cent above officially approved levels. Ministers might choose to cap those councils where the poll tax is notably above Whitehall's figure for what councils need to spend — the standard spending assessment.

Those liable for poll tax in Greenwich are paying for services some £387 per head in excess of the Whitehall norm and the top over-spenders on this measure, after Greenwich, are Lambeth, Haringey, Hammersmith, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Hackney, Camden, and Brent. All are Labour-controlled except Tower Hamlets where the Liberal Democrats hold power.

But if the Government insisted that poll-tax bills in the inner-London boroughs had to be cut by say, £100 a head, this would mean the councils having to save tens of millions of pounds within the remaining nine months of the financial year.

The ALA said printing new poll-tax bills would cost a minimum of £80,000 in an average-sized borough.

In the shadow of a new rate

By Peter Davenport

In a commemorative booklet to mark the 150th anniversary of the family business at Stonegate, in the shadow of York Minster, Mr Ben Kilvington wrote of his satisfaction that another generation was shouldering the tradition.

He also expressed grateful thanks to customers and staff throughout the ages who had enabled the firm to "survive and prosper" in an exceptionally beautiful street in which the family felt privileged to carry on their trade.

That anniversary was two years ago. Mr Kilvington, aged 67, was in a much more sombre mood yesterday about the health and shape of the family company of iron and wire workers and weavers.

The cause of his concern is the impact of the uniform business rate, which is due to come into effect on April 1 and is having a dramatic impact in the city of York in general and along the narrow, flagstone street of Stonegate in particular.

Mr Kilvington's business, in which his wife, Violet, and son, Simon, are partners, paid £3,763 in rates last year. Under the business rate system, the bill will be £25,404.

Although its impact will be eased by a five-year transitional period, he said the rating system posed the most severe financial threat that the family firm had faced.

"The figure represents an eight-fold increase and I simply cannot increase the prices of my goods eight times to meet that. I am having to consider other options to meet my obligations and I just hope they will allow us to carry on our retail trade from these premises," he said.

Mr Kilvington, whose shelves of decorative brasses and ironwork are a popular draw for American tourists who flock to the city, is a founder and past chairman of the Stonegate Traders Association. Like many of his neighbours and fellow businessmen, he hopes that in his Budget today, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will at least indicate that the transitional period will be extended to 10 years.

The Government has announced a scheme known as "transitional relief" to help commercial rate payers facing big rate rises.

Under the system, rates on properties with a new rateable value of more than £10,000 will not increase by more than 20 per cent, plus inflation, each year. Those with a new



Stonegate, in the shadow of York Minster, where traders face a big increase in the rates bill.

value below that figure will not increase by more than 15 per cent, plus inflation. The relief will continue annually until the full rates become payable, or for a maximum of five years.

In medieval Stonegate, the shops are a mix of locally owned family businesses and national chains. Some of the increases in rateable values are dramatic.

A clothes store will see its rateable value increase from £2,597 to £115,000 and its business rate bill from £6,641 to £40,020. A locally owned firm of china specialists will have an increase from £3,472 to £190,000 and its bill from £8,878 to £66,120.

Mr Michael Brown, chief executive of York's Chamber

of Trade, Commerce and Industry, said yesterday that the city had come out on top of a national table of levels of increase imposed by the uniform business rate.

The organization is lobbying MPs and hopes to arrange a meeting with Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, to press the case for improved transitional measures.

In a recent newsletter to its members, the chamber said that the effect of the increases could be "catastrophic" for the centre of the city.

"There must be serious concern that some businesses will close. York is a major tourist destination but we also want to be a major shopping attraction, and part of that

means ensuring a happy mix of businesses in the city centre. We don't just want major chains and fast-food outlets."

Mr Michael Wey, deputy city treasurer, said that York had been hit severely by the new business rate for two reasons. Since the last revaluation in 1973, it had enjoyed a boom which was reflected in property prices. Secondly, the local council had traditionally introduced low rates.

In Mr Kilvington's shop, there are a succession of photographs and ancient prints showing each successive head of the family posing outside their shop. He said he hoped the next picture to go up on the wall, that of his son, would not be the last.

Poll tax cost may increase after Budget

By Ray Clancy

Forecasts that poll tax rebates are to be changed in today's Budget dismayed local authorities yesterday as they disclosed that the charge is on average three times more expensive to collect and administer than the rates.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, is expected to raise the £8,000 savings qualifying limit for rebates to between £10,000 and £16,000. With more people qualifying for rebates than councils had estimated, collection costs will rise enormously.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said a higher threshold would mean many bills would be wrong because they did not give rebates and there would be a rush of new claims.

It said the much higher cost of running the poll tax, included the hiring of over 8,000 extra staff in England and Wales.

According to the Association of London Authorities, inner London has the added problem of collecting the tax from a highly mobile and young population. Authorities with a high number of council tenants also faced added costs because rent and rates used to be collected together.

Mr Steve Lord, the ALA finance officer, said: "Many

authorities are in a dilemma as to whether they pursue policies that make it easy for people to pay because these methods turn out to be very costly. Allowing cash payments means extra security, and collecting fortnightly costs more than monthly."

Change capping would also add to expense. The ALA believes it could cost each capped authority £1 million in re-billing and cash-flow losses.

In Lewisham, south-east London, the poll tax is costing £25 a head to collect compared with £15 for rates. In Oxford, collection and administration is estimated at £3 million, a fivefold increase on last year's costs.

Mr David Hunt, the local government minister, said the money would pay for the extra administrative costs of the "transitional relief" scheme under which individuals facing a sharp rise in their payments can claim a rebate.

'90% of Scots are paying charge'

By Kerry Gill

Ninety per cent of Scots are paying their community charge, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday.

Defending the poll tax, Mr Rifkind said that the vast majority of people liable to pay were obeying the law. Speaking at the Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh, the first to be televised outside Parliament, he said that payment figures were 97 per cent in the Borders and 93 per cent in Tayside.

Even in Strathclyde, where 350,000 summary warrants have been issued against people who have refused to

pay or are in arrears, the payment level was 85 per cent. Although the number of people in Scotland who have not paid or are in arrears is now estimated at about 600,000, Mr Rifkind said that Strathclyde had issued summary warrants to only 15 per cent of those liable for the tax.

He conceded, however, that the poll tax was not yet a perfect system and was being improved as and when it was deemed necessary. "The numbers (of summary warrants) are greater but there is a substantial number of people who do not like paying their taxes until very late in the day," Mr Rifkind said.

Baroness 'pleaded poverty'

The Lady Ilingworth conspiracy trial was told yesterday how Baroness Susan de Stempel "pleaded poverty" to the former Department of Health and Social Security before allegedly abandoning her aristocratic aunt in a local authority home.

Baroness de Stempel and two of her children then looked for an apartment in Spain to buy with money from the sale of the old woman's furniture, Birmingham Crown Court was told.

The baroness allegedly told social security officials in September 1985 that her aunt had no money and that she was struggling financially to bring up her five children at Docklow in Hereford and Worcester.

The baroness's daughter Sophia Wilberforce had told West Mercia Police that the family finances "improved dramatically" after 1984, when Lady Ilingworth was allegedly lured to their house on the pretext of a holiday.

Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, and Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, all deny conspiring to steal Lady Ilingworth's £500,000 fortune. Baroness Susan de Stempel has pleaded guilty to five charges of theft and two of forgery.

Miss Wilberforce told police that she went to Spain with her mother in October 1985 after the baroness had had an operation on her legs. She said it was the baroness's idea to buy a flat in Alicante.

Miss Wilberforce said she was not suspicious of the baroness's spending spree even though she had been unable to pay school fees.

Miss Wilberforce said: "She had sold some furniture. We often sell furniture throughout the year. My mother is very secretive about money."

The prosecution claims that he trip to Spain had been paid for with funds out of Lady Ilingworth's bank.

The court was also told how Miss Wilberforce travelled to Japan to see her brother, Alexander, in May 1984, and to New York to take up a post as a nanny a year later.

Miss Wilberforce denied any knowledge of the contents of Lady Ilingworth's final will, drawn up in September 1984. She told police it was "preposterous and fantastic" to suggest she had anything to do with forging the will.

The trial continues today.

Labour hopeful sticks to the campaign script

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Dr Johnson, whose statue dominates the market square in Lichfield, his birthplace, must have turned in his grave when Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, and Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, went foraging for votes in the town in the Mid Staffordshire by-election yesterday.

Johnson, it will be recalled, likened a woman preaching to a dog walking on its hind legs in a less celebrated but equally inflammatory utterance, he also struck this blow against the career woman: "A man is in general better pleased when he has a good dinner upon his table, than when his wife talks Greek."

And that, in a sense, sums up the Conservatives' difficulty as they contemplate almost certain defeat on Thursday.

Mrs Heal might as well have been talking Greek for all the success her opponents have had in forcing her to depart from the prepared script constructed for her by Mr Peter Mandelson, Labour's director of communications.

Yesterday, it was Mr Chris Patten's turn to accuse her of hiding her true colours from the electorate.

"The response from the Labour Party has been the now traditional Mandelson-style sealed lips campaign, answering none of the questions, particularly on the most contentious issues," the Secretary of State for the Environment, who knows a thing or two about contentious issues, complained. On the main

contentious issue — the poll tax — Mr Patten admitted there were "political hazards" to scrapping the rates, but denied it would personally cost Mr Charles Prior, the Tory candidate, a safe seat.

Mr Patten also scotched suggestions that his private commitment to the poll tax was less than total.

Mr Tim Jones, the Liberal Democrat candidate, whose campaign has been buoyed by holding a seat in the council by-election last week, sounded equally frustrated.

Labour was fighting the most negative campaign in decades, and trying to "corner" the voters with a shallow, American-style campaign.

Labour is clearly becoming a trifle touchy about the "Barbie Doll" jibes being thrown at Mrs Heal. Mr Robin Cook, chief health spokesman, broke off from



Mr Chris Patten: Sealed lips on contentious issues.

berating Mrs Thatcher over NHS reforms to argue that the Conservatives were also trying to keep some people under wraps.

"The one Tory figure whom they are even more reluctant to bring to this by-election than Michael Heseltine is Kenneth Clarke."

Mr Prior, an engagingly candid but somewhat maladroit figure, was also in danger of falling victim to this sudden plague of political modesty.

Momentarily, he appeared to have joined Mr John Major in Budget purdah when he said he could not comment on the likely contents of today's fiscal package. However, after prompting, he said he wanted the Chancellor to squeeze inflation out of the system.

Mrs Sara Parkin, the country's best-known and most photogenic Green, was far less reticent as she unveiled her party's budget proposals. They included an average carbon tax of 10 per cent on all fossil fuels, an extra 90p a gallon on petrol and a reduction in the road-building programme of £8 billion and in the defence budget of £3.5 billion.

More cheerfully, bank base rates would be cut by 2 per cent, child benefit would be raised by 50 per cent, and pensions would be increased by 10 per cent above inflation.

People earning more than £18,000 a year would face higher taxes, but there would be reductions for the low paid.

1987 General Election: J. Heddle (C) 28,644; C. St Hill (Lab) 13,990; T. Jones (L/ALL) 13,114; J. Bazley (Independent) 836; C. Maj: 14,654.

Sainsbury staff get 11% rise

By Kevin Eason

Sainsbury's, Britain's largest supermarket chain, yesterday announced wage increases averaging 11 per cent for 60,000 workers at the start of a drive to reduce its high staff turnover.

The company says that about 40 per cent of workers in its 289 stores leave each year.

The wage increases underlined the competition for staff at a time when retailers are becoming increasingly worried about the implications for recruitment of the rapid decrease in school leavers.

Minimum rises will be 8.5 per cent but some staff will get up to 15 per cent in a regrading exercise, which will put about £27 million on the company wage bill and also save it from a potentially embarrassing equal pay test case.

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers announced that it was dropping charges against the company after Sainsbury's ordered a thorough review of the salary and promotion structure for its weekly paid workforce.

The results, announced to staff yesterday, mean better rewards for skill, clearer promotional opportunities and more flexible hours.

The union was pursuing the case of Mrs Geraldine O'Sullivan, a checkout operator at a south-east London store, who was claiming work of equal value to higher paid warehousemen.

Checkout operators will be included in some of the highest awards after the review, in which the union took part.

Mellor reports record number of drug addicts

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Britain had a record 14,785 notified narcotic addicts last year but the overall addict population could be up to 10 times that figure, reaching 150,000, Mr David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for drug policy, said yesterday.

The 1989 figures, published yesterday, were 17 per cent higher than those of 1988. Mr Mellor said that, overall, there might be 75,000 to 150,000 addicts, based on "guesstimates". Previous estimates have put the addict population between 50,000 and 100,000.

He pointed to the rise in the number of new cocaine addicts, totalling 530 last year, and said that Britain may still only be experiencing the "hull before the storm".

Mr Mellor, speaking at a briefing for next month's world ministerial summit on drug problems, in London, said heroin abuse may have peaked, though at a very high level.

More than 460 kilos of cocaine were seized last year, up to 60 per cent of it imported via the Continent, but much more had reached the market.

"We underestimate cocaine at our peril," the minister said, pointing particularly to the risk from "crack", a potent refinement of cocaine.

Seizures of crack have risen from six in 1986 to 139 last year and 15 per cent of all cocaine seizures now involve the refined drug. One optimistic

sign in the statistics, Mr Mellor said, was that there had been a decrease in the number of new addicts aged under 21. The need to continue to combat addiction was demonstrated by the fact that two-thirds of notified addicts injected drugs, risking HIV and other infections.

The figures from the Home Office show that the number of registered addicts rose from 10,716 in 1987 to 14,785 last year. New addicts increased from 4,993 to 5,639 while renotified addicts rose from 6,123 to 9,146.

Heroin remains the greatest single narcotic drug of abuse with 12,484 notified addicts last year, against 888 cocaine addicts.

Between 1979 and 1989 the number of new heroin addicts rose from 1,110 to 4,883 last year, while the number of cocaine addicts rose from 126 to 527 over the decade.

In the past 10 years the number of deaths attributed to drug misuse has increased by up to three times to reach an annual figure of 250.

More women have become involved in cocaine abuse. The ratio of male to female heroin addicts is running at four to one while the gender division among cocaine addicts is split half and half.

The main areas for narcotics addiction remain London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Lancashire and Norfolk and in Scotland, Lothian and Borders.

Employers get advice on Aids

Every employer in the country is to receive updated information about Aids and to be urged not to discriminate against workers with the virus.

A booklet is being sent to 400,000 companies this week advising managers to give HIV-infected staff equal standing. Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, whose department has helped to produce the booklet, said workers should never be dismissed because they have the virus.

"Employers may have to deal with fear and potential victimization over this issue so it is important they have a policy."

Companies should not ask applicants to take an HIV test, he said.

GP appeal

Dr Navin Rastogi, a GP in Bolsover, Derbyshire, who was suspended for failing to provide proper treatment for two patients who later died, has won an appeal to resume practising after the General Medical Council accepted that he had improved his methods.

Child award

Michael Biscoe, aged six, who suffered brain damage at birth, was awarded £70,000 agreed damages against Enfield Health Authority in the High Court. His mother, Mrs Lella Biscoe, of Enfield, north London, received £45,500.

Tax protest

Mr John Crookall-Greene and his wife, Grace, of Bedford, say they will continue paying their rates of £1,100, even though their poll-tax is £300 lower, in protest at the "unfairness" of the new system.

Driving ban

The Oxford United footballer Les Phillips was fined £250 and banned for three years for a second drink-drive offence. He is the sixth player with the club to be convicted of drink-driving in three years.

Lake people

One in four people living in the Lake District National Park is retired or of retiring age and one in six houses is a holiday home, according to the National Park office.

Poll watcher

Mrs Edwina Currie, the Conservative MP for Derbyshire South, has been invited to be an observer at Romania's elections in May.

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March 19 1990

PARLIAMENT

Police team to pursue war crimes inquiry

A team of nine police officers is to be established to continue the work of the war crimes inquiry into alleged war criminals living in this country, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, told MPs when he moved the second reading of the War Crimes Bill.

The inquiry, by Sir Thomas Hetherington and Mr William Chalmers, was set up in 1988 and reported to the Home Secretary in June last year.

The team, Mr Waddington said, will be under the control of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and will be funded by central government. Evidence recorded on video will be permitted at any trial and the law of Scotland will be changed to allow that procedure north of the border.

Mr Waddington said that the War Crimes Inquiry had decided that there was reason to suspect that among those who had settled in the United Kingdom after the war, there were some who had committed the most dreadful crimes.

On the basis of the law as it stood they could not be called to account for their actions. The inquiry recommended changing the law to enable the courts to try offences of murder and manslaughter committed as war crimes in Germany or German-occupied territory during the Second World War.

The Government had considered what form such legislation might take. In particular, it had looked at the evidential and procedural recommendations made by the inquiry.

"There is only one of the inquiry's ancillary recommendations which would, if accepted, break new ground and that one is the suggestion that documentary evidence from foreign archives should be admissible in evidence if the source of the evidence was authenticated by the archivists."

That would involve new legislation. It would not be right to take that step for war crimes alone and the Government did not propose to do so.

All the other proposals of the inquiry either required no change to existing law or were consistent with steps already approved.

Parliament had already accepted that live television evidence was permissible, principally for serious and complex

fraud trials. It would not be sensible to limit its application by excluding the most serious of all cases, those involving the taking of human life.

"We therefore intend to bring section 32 of the Criminal Justice Act into effect in respect of murder, manslaughter and serious and complex fraud. But section 32 does not apply to Scotland and, to extend the power to Scotland, an amendment has been tabled in the House of Lords to the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill."

The inquiry had also recommended that it should be possible for evidence to be used in war crimes trials to be taken on commission in the country where the witnesses were living and that video recordings of evidence taken in that way, or in response to a letter of request issued by a court in this country to an overseas authority, should be admissible.

There was no need to legislate to achieve that because it was already provided for in the Criminal Justice Act.

Neither was further action required on the question of video recordings so far as the law related to England and Wales, but it was unclear whether such evidence would be admissible under Scottish law. That would be put right by amendment of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked why the Home Secretary had not discussed the bringing of alleged German war criminals to justice with the Attorney General and the chief prosecuting officer of the time, Lord Shawcross. If he had done so, Lord Shawcross would have offered advice diametrically opposed to the advice Mr Waddington had given to MPs.

Mr Waddington said he had the greatest respect for Lord Shawcross, but it was for the Government to make difficult

decisions. It could not shuffle them off.

He planned to establish a central policing unit to pick up and continue the investigation work begun by the inquiry. This unit would be operationally responsible to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and would, at first, consist of nine police officers plus supporting staff. As the work developed it might be necessary to review its size.

The task should be funded entirely by central government, although it would not be under central government direction. Both those making investigations and prosecutions must be able to call upon the expert assistance of historians and linguists.

It would not be right to proceed with this unit until the Bill had received Royal Assent. That would enable MPs to advise the Government on what sort of unit they thought it should be, how it should operate and what sort of liaison it might have with other units overseas.

It was so long since the war, and it was the instinctive wish of most people to get on with their lives in peace and not rake over the past.

"But sometimes one is brought face to face with facts that cannot be buried, with deeds so terrible that they cannot be forgotten. And as long as one of those responsible survives, the world will cry out for justice."

Mr Ray Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that tonight they would vote with their consciences, the Bill raised moral principles.

His fundamental view of this matter had been expressed by Winston Churchill who, in the House on October 28, 1948, had proposed "to draw the sponge across the crimes and horrors of the past — hard as that may be — and look for the sake

of all our salvation to the future".

However, the crimes involved did seem to him to be so monstrous that they could not possibly be subject to any statute of limitations.

They had to consider why they might wish to proceed with prosecutions, possible convictions and eventual punishment.

Had they meant to deter all war crimes, the Government would have chosen, and the House would have supported, a general rather than a specific Bill.

Clearly, MPs were not looking, either, for a way to ensure that such criminals did not repeat their offences.

Retribution was far too near to vengeance to be a good reason for introducing this Bill. MPs were, therefore, left with one possible justification: demonstrating their abiding revulsion at the conscious and premeditated slaughter of people and its relationship to a policy of genocide against the whole Jewish race.

"After some doubt and some difficulty, I have come to the conclusion that that single justification, the demonstration of revulsion, is enough to warrant support for the principle of prosecution."

He still retained the gravest reservations about what should, by any standards, be described as innovations to the Scottish law, which were now being proposed.

He was concerned about changes in the law designed to help specific convictions. It seemed to him that, however trivial or marginal the changes might be, that would set undesirable precedents. It seemed a devious way of proceeding.

The changes were being attached to a Bill dealing with changes in licensing laws and the rights of Scottish solicitors to have an audience in minor courts. It was undesirable to introduce the changes in this way.

Mr Julian Asbury (Brighton, Pavilion, C) said that he was deeply moved by the remarkable letter of Lord Shawcross to *The Times* (Saturday, March 17). Lord Shawcross wrote about how by 1948 the House had become shocked by the war crimes trials, and came to the conclusion that it should no longer be responsible for investigating war crime trials in Germany.

Leading article, page 15



Gallery is cleared of students

Nine students were evicted from the public gallery of the House of Lords after repeated outbreaks of coughing interrupted the second day of the committee stage of the Education (Student Loans) Bill.

The Earl of Caithness, Paymaster General, meanwhile, told peers that he would look again at the need for safeguards forbidding the disclosure of information held manually by the Student Loans Company.

Computerized records were already covered by the provisions of the Data Protection Act. He was responding to concerns expressed during discussion of an amendment moved by Earl Russell (Lib Dem) urging protection against unauthorized disclosure or use of the information.

The amendment was rejected by 126 votes to 110 — Government majority, 16.

Floods response 'is inadequate'

WALES

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, was pressed at question time to set up a task force and make more resources and funds available to deal with the aftermath of flooding in the Towy area of North Wales.

Sir Anthony Meyer (North West Clwyd, C) said that the scale of the disaster was far greater than anyone had realized and the money made available was inadequate.

The value of houses had dropped by many thousands of pounds. Social Services departments were under great strain and the flooding had fixed an air of gloom over the whole area.

A task force should be considered to provide co-ordination and restore some hope to the "unhappy people of the area".

Mr Walker said that the best co-ordinator was the Welsh Office and it was working closely with local authorities. The Bellwin formula for helping

authorities in a disaster normally paid 75 per cent of a council's costs. The Government had lifted the figure to 85 per cent.

The appeal he had made a few weeks ago to the furniture and carpet industry was producing results.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Welsh affairs, said that the amounts of money being provided by the Government and the system of compensation were insufficient.

The chief executive of Colwyn Bay estimated that £3 million would be needed.

Mr Walker said that no government had done more in such circumstances. He would discuss with local authorities their assessments of their needs when they were ready.

£57m in building grants for arts

The Government is providing £57 million in 1990-91 for the building and maintenance programme at the national museums and galleries sponsored by the Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Lacey, he announced in a Commons written reply.

That provision would increase to £60 million next year and to £64 million in 1992-93, he added. That would bring the total provision for building and maintenance over the next three years to more than £180 million.

Workers' pay 'too low'

MPs were feeding off the back of cheap labour in the tea rooms and dining rooms of the House of Commons, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said at questions.

Catering staff complained that they were underpaid, but the refreshment department had a balance of £2 million. It was now necessary for a review of their wages, he said during questions to the House of Commons Commission.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib Dem), for the commission, said that the House never employed cheap labour. Pay was linked to Civil Service pay.

Rates paper promised

The Government is to publish a document showing what the increase in domestic rates would have been had that system been maintained instead of the new community charge. Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; Prime Minister; The Budget; Lords (2.30): Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, third reading; Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, committee, first day.

Major's alternatives

How will the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget — his first, and the first to be televised — affect you? Rodney Lord looks at the options open to him and offers (right) a chart on which you can fill in the changes as they are announced in the House



ECONOMIC FORECASTS

As the first Chancellor to have his Budget speech televised, John Major may choose to present his message a little differently from those of his predecessors. But the shape of the speech will probably not change much. Starting with prospects for the economy, he will move on to monetary policy and his judgment of the budget balance, leaving the decisions on individual tax measures until last.

The economic outlook is sombre. Economic growth this year may turn out slightly higher than the 1½ per cent projected in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, but this is symptomatic of the inflationary pressures still at large. The City will be particularly eager to see his latest forecast for inflation. Price increases, which were forecast to have fallen to 5½ per cent by the end of the year, are likely to turn out higher, boosted by the poll tax, increases in mortgage rates and, more seriously, a continuing underlying pressure on prices. What figure the Chancellor chooses will depend partly on when he expects to be able to bring down interest rates — which is not soon.

For the pound and interest rates, the single most important question will be whether he decides to raise taxes. The expectation is that he will, but perhaps not by much.

BUSINESS TAXES

Tax cuts of any kind are unlikely this year. But with business profits and investment falling sharply, there is a relatively strong case for giving companies some relief. The Confederation of British Industry has called for an increase in allowances rather than a cut in the rate of corporation tax. However, a move in this direction would reverse some of the reforms made by Nigel Lawson. Mr Major's predecessor, and could also relax the constraints on companies not to concede big pay increases.

Encouraging small business is an act of faith with the Conser-

vative Party, and there are usually one or two measures designed to make life easier for the young entrepreneur. They may involve unincorporated business: partnerships, rather than companies.

One area where business may have to brace itself for new burdens is environmental taxes. The main polluters are industrial; in theory, one of the best ways of protecting the environment is through the taxation of offenders. Most probably, however, the Chancellor will defer serious action for more study.

SPENDING TAXES

In a Budget where the bottom line may show a tax increase, the argument for raising the duty on cigarettes, drink and petrol is strong. But there is a problem, because the EC wants to bring taxes on spending closer together in member countries — which means holding down duties on high-tax areas such as Britain so that the lower-tax Mediterranean countries can catch up.

Raising duties would also add temporarily to inflation, adding weight to the argument that if they must go up, it would be better to do so now rather than closer to the next election.

POPULAR CAPITALISM

If the Chancellor decides on a simple adjustment of duties for inflation, he will add 7.7 per cent to each item. This will be increased slightly by the consequential rise in VAT as the price goes up. For beer that would mean an extra 1.7p per pint, wine 6.8p per bottle, spirits 41.9p per bottle, cigarettes 7.4p for 20 king size, petrol 1.8p per litre, leaded and 1.6p unleaded, and £7.70 on the tax disc for a car. As a result, inflation would be raised by about 0.55 per cent.

One long-standing complaint, which has been much exacerbated by the independent taxation of husband and wife, is the composite rate tax (CRT) levied on building society deposits, which was extended by Mr Lawson to bank deposits.

Because CRT is not refundable to non-taxpayers, it may not be worthwhile for wives with small amounts in the bank or the building society to have their own personal tax allowances.

Employee share ownership plans, an American import, were given a legal framework last year, but do not seem to have been very successful. This year could see some amendments. Given his concern for the social effects of taxation, Mr Major seems likely to be fairly conventional about capital taxes. Indexation of the thresholds for capital gains tax and inheritance tax is the most likely decision, though there could be further relief for business.

PERSONAL TAX BREAKS

The hot tip this year are company cars and childcare. Mr Lawson steadily reduced the tax perk of the company car by raising the scale at which the benefit was taxed. There is no reason to suppose Mr Major will desist. Given the need to raise money, he could well accelerate the process.

If he acts on childcare, it will be to introduce a new form of tax relief. A strong campaign has been mounted for exempt help for working wives with young children. Charities often receive a little extra. This can range from changes to an obscure part of the law on VAT to large-scale new reliefs to encourage the charitable instinct.

It is difficult to see much change being likely with regard to the principal reliefs. Despite the Prime Minister's attachment to mortgage interest relief, it would be surprising to raise the ceiling at a time when the rates, one of the main taxes on property, are about to be abolished. Changes to reliefs on life assurance and pensions

would be easier for Mr Major than Mr Lawson, who was bound by various pledges. However, it would be politically brave to dive into that particular pool with the opinion polls as they stand.

INCOME TAX

In what may be a grey package, one of the few pearls Mr Major will be able to extract is the Government's plan for independent taxation of husband and wife. This was announced in detail last year, but it comes into effect from April 1 and the Chancellor is sure to make much of its advantages for women. It also involves a tax giveaway of at least £500 million.

However, other measures, especially those to do with income tax, are bound to be less attractive. If Mr Major believes he needs to raise taxes, he may want to do so through income tax.

The simplest way of raising a substantial sum might be to refrain from adjusting personal allowances for inflation, as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the last Chancellor but one, did in 1981. That would raise about £1.6 billion. Pressure continues from some quarters for further reform of national insurance contributions. Options include abolishing the upper limit for employee contributions, making perks taxable and smoothing the schedule for employer contributions. However, it would be surprising for the Government to act in this area for two consecutive years.

TOMORROW

Eight-page Budget special — a complete pull-out guide to all the tax and insurance changes, as well as expert analysis

ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Economic growth, 1990
Last forecast: 1.25%

Budget forecast

Inflation through the year
Last forecast: 5.75%

Budget forecast

Balance of payments 1990
Last forecast: £15bn

Budget forecast

Budget surplus, 1990-91
Current year: less than £12.5bn

Budget forecast

Oil price 1990
Assumption for 1989: about \$18 a barrel

Budget forecast

Money targets 1990-91
Current year: +1% to 5% (MO)

Budget target

Others:

Gallon of petrol (leaded)
Inflation adjustment: up 8.2p

Budget change

Gallon of petrol (unleaded)
Inflation adjustment: up 7.1p

Budget change

20 cigarettes
Inflation adjustment: up 7.4p

Budget change

Pint of beer
Inflation adjustment: up 1.7p

Budget change

Bottle of whisky
Inflation adjustment: up 42p

Budget change

Car licence
Inflation adjustment: up £7.70

Budget change

Other duties

VAT changes

BUSINESS TAXES

Corporation tax
Current rate: 35%

Budget rate

Employers' NICs Budget

5% £46-80 a week

7% £80-125

9% £125-175

10.45% Over £175

VAT threshold Adjusted for inflation: £25,400

Budget figure

Financial services tax

North Sea oil

Company car scale 1990-91

Small business

Other changes

PERSONAL TAX BREAKS

Husband and wife

Mortgages

Age allowances

Single parent's allowance

Charitable donations

Other covenants

Pensions/life assurance

Social security

Health insurance

Other reliefs/allowances

POPULAR CAPITALISM

Changes in income tax relief for:

Personal equity plans

Business Expansion Scheme

Employee share schemes

Profit sharing

Stamp duty

Capital Gains Tax threshold Adjusted for inflation: £5,385

Budget figure

Inheritance Tax threshold Adjusted for inflation: £127,000

Budget figure

Other changes

INCOME TAX

Personal allowances 1990-91

Inflation adjustment: up £215 to £3,000

Budget change up

to

Married couple Inflation adjustment: up £120 to £1,710

Budget change up

to

Threshold for higher rates Inflation adjustment: up £1,595 to £22,295

Budget figure

Top rate Currently: 40%

Budget rate

Basic rate of tax Currently: 25%

Budget rate

Employees' NICs Budget

9% £46-350

+2% £0-46

20p 100 1.55



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Fifteen dead after ANC supporters raid Zulu village

From Fred Bridgland, Johannesburg

Fifteen people were killed and nine critically injured in a violent attack by armed African National Congress supporters on the kraal of a chief loyal to the Zulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

The attack is a severe setback to efforts by Chief Buthelezi and Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC Vice-President, to end the violence in Natal Province, which has claimed at least 3,000 lives in the last two years.

To make matters worse, the ANC's internal leader, Mr Walter Sisulu, has been accused by Chief Buthelezi, leader of the powerful Zulu Inkatha movement, of insulting the whole Zulu nation. It comes at a time when tensions are high not only in Natal, the Zulu heartland, but between the Zulus and other black people in the townships around the factories and gold mines of Johannesburg.

The cause of Chief Buthelezi's anger with Mr Sisulu is a letter the latter sent to King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulu nation, saying he is willing to hold peace talks with him as soon as possible, provided the meeting is not scheduled for Umtata, seat of the KwaZulu homeland legislative assembly. Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu, attacked Mr Sisulu in the assembly yesterday for

the "temerity" of his slight to the whole Zulu nation. "In what way is he contributing to peace if he talks this way to our people?" Chief Buthelezi asked.

Chief Buthelezi returned on Sunday from a visit to Zambia where President Kaunda endorsed him as a player in the forthcoming negotiations to devise a new South African constitution which will enfranchise all the country's citizens.

Most ANC supporters regard Chief Buthelezi as a "sell-out" who worked within the ethnic homeland system while refusing to accept full independence.

Chief Buthelezi, who has yet to comment on the latest violence, issued a statement yesterday calling on the ANC to lay down their arms "and throw in their weight with the rest of South Africa, which now wants to work towards a multi-party democracy".

Police in Pretoria said the attack on the chief's kraal, at Njibokazi, a KwaZulu village 30 miles inland from Durban, took place on Sunday evening. The assailants were supporters of the United Democratic Front, the internal wing of the ANC before the ban on the latter was lifted seven weeks ago.

"A large group arrived at the kraal and opened fire with

a variety of weapons, including an AK 47 rifle," a police spokesman, Major Reg Crews, said. "Two hand grenades were hurled into the kraal. As the occupants fled they were gunned down. They were then hacked and stabbed as well."

Two of the dead were special constables posted to guard the pro-Inkatha chief. Major Crews said the death toll was expected to rise because of the critical condition of the injured, who include a third constable.

At least five other people were killed in Inkatha-ANC clashes over the weekend, including one man who was hacked to death and then set alight after being doused with petrol.

Violence also continued in several townships around Johannesburg.

Three people died in a simmering ideological war at Bekkersdal, a township about 25 miles south-west of the metropolis between ANC followers and adherents of the Black Consciousness movement.

A Black Consciousness spokesman said that his people had been killed by members of the Bekkersdal Youth Congress, a UDF-ANC affiliate, wielding guns, spades and garden forks. A fourth victim was blinded in the attack.

Rebels in Ethiopia force regime's hand



Scorched earth: An Eritrean People's Liberation Front rebel strolling among bundles of food relief still smouldering three weeks after the battle for Massawa. The bags of wheat, donated by the European Community, were used as fortification sandbags by defending Ethiopian government troops.

Mengistu to end socialist domination

By Our Foreign Staff

President Mengistu of Ethiopia, deemed the world's poorest country with a per capita annual income of \$91 (£56), has signalled the end of socialist domination in the country.

Faced with economic collapse, civil war and the prospect of no further substantial assistance from fellow socialist nations, he told Canadian visitors at the weekend that a multi-party system would be acceptable. Defeats at the hands of rebels in Tigré and Eritrea have clearly forced the hand of what once was Africa's most rigidly Marxist-Leninist regime.

The plans for a multi-party system come after President Mengistu's announcement that private enterprise will have a role in the economy and that foreign investment must be sought. Reviewing 15 years of social-

ism in the country, he said: "As seen from all angles, the transition to the socialist system... has proved difficult and unattainable."

With the threat of starvation again stalking the land, the most important reforms will come in agriculture, where the annual food deficit is estimated at 250,000 tonnes. Although land will remain the property of the state, individual use will be permitted by law, as will the employment of labour by peasants. They will also be able to transfer their title to land to their heirs.

Other moves recently announced include: Basing state enterprises on profitability, competition and productivity and privatizing or closing those which fail; allowing the private sector to compete in all areas of business; tax reform; permission for

developers to build, rent and sell houses, and the giving of government-owned land to private firms for the building of hotels.

A communiqué issued by the official news agency appeared to confirm the President's move to create a multi-party system in addition to reorganizing the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) as a non-ideological national party.

Referring to a resolution of the party's Central Committee adopting the reforms, the news agency said: "There is nothing in the relevant item of the resolution... which states that opposition groups are required to join or work under the WPE which... is to be reconstructed under a new name."

Since President Mengistu announced the WPE's abandonment of Soviet-style 'Marxism-Leninism',

prominent symbols of the party's rejected ideology have begun to disappear from the streets of Addis Ababa, the capital. First to go was a poster displaying the faces of Marx, Engels and Lenin in Revolution Square, the site of mass rallies and military parades. A poster of the President leading enthusiastic workers and peasants under a red banner and the Ethiopian flag continues, however, to dominate the square.

Elsewhere, discreet groups of workmen have been going round by night, painting out hammer-and-sickle signs and socialist slogans on garish banners and displays spanning the streets of the capital.

Students have splashed green paint over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University and painted a black 'X' on the plinth underneath.

OAU seeks united front over Pretoria relations

From Jan Raath, Harare

Fourteen African heads of state began talks in Lusaka yesterday aimed at creating a united front in the face of South African attempts to make separate deals.

South Africa has built up close relationships with some conservative African nations, chiefly Ivory Coast and Zaïre. Yesterday's meeting of the Organization of African Unity's ad hoc committee on Southern Africa was an attempt to close ranks and strengthen the African National Congress's position in negotiations.

The ANC called on the committee to open diplomatic contacts with South Africa. Mr Alfred Nzo, the ANC secretary-general, said that if President de Klerk was able to forge alliances outside the OAU committee, "it would give a signal to the de Klerk regime to block any possibilities of progress towards the elimination of apartheid".

An ANC team is due in

South Africa on April 11, for "talks about talks" with Mr de Klerk on ways to ease the way to full negotiations on the abolition of apartheid and the introduction of a non-racial constitution.

The ANC insists that Mr de Klerk, in ending the bans on outlawed organizations and releasing Mr Nelson Mandela, its deputy president, has met only a small number of the preconditions laid down by the Harare Declaration, the blueprint for South Africa's road to democracy which was adopted by the United Nations in December.

Mr Nzo yesterday urged Western nations to maintain pressure on South Africa, because it had not yet gone far enough to create the "climate of conditions" demanded for talks to begin.

He said there was a danger that "certain countries" could be "deceived" by Mr de Klerk's concessions so far, and that would severely weaken

the ANC's position and encourage other Western governments to follow the line taken by Mrs Thatcher in lifting some sanctions.

President Kaunda of Zambia told the meeting that "it is the Pretoria regime that should unlock the gates to negotiations" and carry on to meet all the preconditions laid down in the Harare Declaration, a cessation of hangings of political prisoners, the end of political trials, a full lifting of the state of emergency and the removal of troops from the townships.

ANC sources say they expect that on April 11 Mr de Klerk will present demands that include a "suspension" of the ANC's currently low-level military campaign and arguments for the retention of the state of emergency, to allow the Government to deal with continued violence in Natal province.

Socialist deadlock persists

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Socialist Party heavyweights came and went at the party's Rue Solferino headquarters yesterday where M Laurent Fabius, the former Prime Minister and present National Assembly Speaker, and M Lionel Jospin, the Education Minister, remained at loggerheads in their battle for party control.

Each blamed the abysmal failure of the Socialist Party congress in Rennes over the weekend on the other's refusal to compromise.

The battle is fuelled by their personal ambition to be best placed to step into President Mitterrand's shoes if and when, in the middle distance, he should step down.

M Mitterrand, aged 71, was elected for a second term in 1988. Since then those who believe they can see the writing on the wall have been prematurely jockeying for position - even to the point of ridiculing the Socialist Party.

M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission and former Socialist Finance Minister, could not hide his anger yesterday. He and others pointed out that the congress was prevented from holding its scheduled international debate on Sunday by the absence of party leaders, who were discussing which of their camp followers should get key party jobs in future.

Those involved have until tonight to come up with an acceptable compromise before electing a new General Secretary and party executive tomorrow. M Pierre Mauroy, the present General Secretary, has said he will only stand again if he has general backing.

Li to ease austerity policy as output falls

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

When Premier Li Peng opens the annual session of parliament, or National People's Congress, today he will call for a partial roll-back of the austerity programme which he advocated, but which has brought China's industrial production to near standstill.

Mr Li's Government "looks set to relax its tight hold on the money supply and boost consumer confidence in a bid to shore up plummeting industrial production", according to the official *China Daily*.

China's austerity programme was conceived in September, 1988, after a summer of bank runs and panic buying. Now government economists are conceding that control of the money supply has gone too far, and are advocating a U-turn. Mr Li is expected to urge a cut in interest rates on bank deposits, to encourage people to spend, spend, spend.

From tomorrow, the central bank is to cut interest rates on commercial loans by one percentage point to 6 per cent. The *China Daily* said that when the austerity measures began "many enterprises which relied on bank loans for working capital were plunged into chaos. They faced huge stockpiles of goods, low production capacity and rising unemployment."

People were lured into depositing their money by index-linked interest. Stockpiles of finished goods grew 80 per cent by the end of last year, and debt defaults among enterprises are now running as high as 110 billion yuan (£14 billion).

Industrial growth in January was down 6.1 per cent compared with January, 1989

— the biggest monthly drop in 10 years. Economic growth last year stood at an overall 4 per cent, with minus growth towards the end of the year.

Inflation, which galvanized the Government into introducing the austerity programme, has fallen from 27 per cent in cities in early 1989 to around 7 per cent.

Mr Li has said that he wanted to see an end to sluggish growth, but he is unlikely to describe the measures as a roll-back of the austerity policy, since that would admit defeat.

In an unusually critical comment for the official press, the *China Daily* quoted economists as saying: "The industrial growth rate would not have dropped to an historic low if the Government had taken action in the third quarter of last year."

Other elements of the austerity policy - like freeing prices from state control - do not seem to be up for discussion. Price reform is closely associated with the disgraced ex-General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, and has become a dirty word since he was ousted in June. Western analysts do not see the new measures solving the underlying problems.

It is not only Mr Zhao's adventurous economic policies which will be absent from this year's National People's Congress. Mr Zhao himself, although officially still a deputy to the parliament, "has asked for leave and will not attend", according to a congress spokesman.

As expected, senior leader Mr Deng Xiaoping will resign from his post as chairman of the State Military Com-

mission. In November, Mr Deng gave up his post as chairman of the far more important Party Military Commission, handing over to his chosen successor, Mr Jiang Zemin, the General Secretary.

Mr Wan Li, the Standing Committee's chairman, has called for deputies to "air views freely in full exercise of democracy". But it is unlikely that disagreements at the congress will be made public, and most sessions of the two-week congress are closed.

Speculation that Mr Li might be ousted has been effectively silenced by the declaration that there will be no personnel changes. It is believed that some leaders favoured ditching the widely-loathed Premier as a scapegoat for the army action last June. It has apparently been decided, however, that such a move would admit that the crackdown was wrong, and thus implicate the entire leadership.

● Election black-out: China's state-controlled media yesterday withheld news on the elections in East Germany which ended the communists' hold on power (Reuters reports).

The *People's Daily* carried a report from Prague saying the Warsaw Pact was divided on East Germany's future military role, but made no mention of Sunday's vote.

The *China Daily*, which has a limited circulation among local Chinese, was the only newspaper to report the elections.

Since last June's pro-reform demonstrations, the authorities have allowed only limited coverage of events sweeping the communist world.

'Abuses' by Israel attacked

Jerusalem - Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, who is on a peace-making mission in the Middle East, yesterday attacked the Israeli authorities for alleged violations of human rights in the occupied territories (Richard Owen writes).

After talks with the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, Mr Carter said: "What we are talking about here is an authoritative government which is in charge in the territories but is depriving people under its control of their basic human rights."

Mr Carter, who met Israeli leaders on Sunday and leading Palestinian figures yesterday, travels on to Tunis today for talks with Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

Pipe blamed for hotel fire

Cairo - An Egyptian government report says the fire at the Helopolis Sheraton Hotel here earlier this month in which 17 people, including four Britons, were killed, was caused by a spark from a hookah, or bubble-bubble pipe, (Christopher Walker writes). The findings contradict suggestions that the blaze may have been started by Islamic fundamentalists.

India raises defence cash

Delhi - India has increased its defence budget by around 10 per cent (Coomi Kapoor writes). Mr Madhu Dandavate, the Defence Minister, told Parliament the increased spending was "the direct result of the situation on our borders", a reference to recent violence in Kashmir and Punjab.

Marcos lawyer girds for battle in New York court

From James Bone, New York

When Mrs Imelda Marcos first appeared in court in New York more than a year ago, Jimmy Breslin, the veteran columnist, noted that her husband Ferdinand was nowhere to be seen.

The former Philippine President had been excused from the remand hearing because of illness and stayed in the Hawaiian sunshine.

"He was setting up Fat Imelda to do time in jail for both of them," Breslin wrote. "If Imelda had any experience in being caught stealing, she would know that men in particular always become ill upon indictment."

Today Mrs Marcos - known as "The Steel Butterfly" - is set to return the favour.

Her husband died last September. But Mrs Marcos's lawyer has already signalled that when he goes to court today to defend the former First Lady against charges of

looting the Philippines Treasury, he will try to pin the blame on Ferdinand Marcos.

"I would like the court to go into the attitudes of jurors with respect to the wife's responsibility for the husband's acts," Mr Garry Spence, an outlandish Wyoming defence lawyer, said at a pre-trial conference on Friday.



Mrs Marcos: Faces 20 years in prison if convicted.

"What should she know about what her husband did?" he asked.

Mr Spence, whose trademark is a 10-gallon Stetson hat, made his name defending the little people against the powerful, so it is somewhat ironic that he is defending a former national leader charged with corruption.

Mrs Marcos is charged with conspiring to invest \$168 million (£104 million) in "stolen funds" in hidden bank accounts and secret property holdings, including four prestigious buildings in Manhattan. If convicted, she faces 20 years in jail.

Alongside her in the dock will be Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian wheeler-dealer. Prosecutors say Mr Khashoggi, once married to a Briton, helped the Marcoses conceal their interest in certain properties. He faces a possible sentence of 10 years' jail.

US space station encounters turbulence

From Susan Elliott, Washington

The world's most advanced spaceship, a result of one of former President Reagan's ideas, has run into problems with the discovery that it is a victim of its own complexity.

So elaborate is the structure of Freedom, a \$30 billion (£18.5 billion) space station designed to be the showpiece of America's programme for the human exploration of space, that NASA scientists predict astronauts will have to begin costly maintenance before construction of the project in space is even three-quarters complete.

Reports of this serious problem in the space station's viability have led some experts to question the whole future of America's expensive manned space programme.

This year NASA received \$12 billion from the White House and has asked for \$15.1 billion for next year, the biggest percentage increase requested by any agency. The budget for the

Freedom project this year is \$1.8 billion.

The Meccano-like space station was planned in 1984 when the US was anxious to compete with the Soviet Union's manned exploration of the solar system. Mr Reagan called for the development within a decade of America's first outpost able to support a permanent staff.

Now NASA experts have concluded that astronauts would have to spend about 2,200 hours a year "space-walking" the exterior of the station to perform routine maintenance and inspection to keep it operational.

American astronauts have so far space-walked for only 400 hours in the 30 years of the US space programme. The required protective space-suits are very expensive, and no American astronaut has carried out such a walk in the past four years because of the perceived dangers.

"Over time, the grandiose schemes of the early 1980s have been scaled

back, and now even the more modest plans have become questionable," Mr Paul Stares, a research associate at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said. "You have to wonder whether it's really worth the money put into this programme when you could provide other types of (unmanned) long-duration craft, such as Voyager."

A NASA spokesman declined to comment on reports that the space station may have to be redesigned. The structure, 500ft long, was conceived to orbit the earth while allowing a permanent crew to perform studies and planetary forays.

Reports of the weakness of the Freedom concept came several days after US intelligence sources said a \$1 billion American spy satellite, put into orbit last month by the space shuttle Atlantis, was likely to fall back into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrate during the coming weeks.

● TOKYO: Japan yesterday joined America and the Soviet Union in

sending a spacecraft to the moon, making its mark in one of the few areas of modern technology it has not already mastered, and injecting a little more reality into a space programme that dreams of everything from growing food in zero gravity to a moon city with hotels (Joe Joseph writes).

Japan's football-sized satellite went into lunar orbit just after 5am Tokyo time, the first to visit the moon since an unmanned Soviet craft landed there in 1976. The Japanese craft was sent smoothly into orbit as its parent, the Muses-A satellite that was launched from southern Japan on January 24, was on its fifth orbit of the Earth.

News of the mission's success came just hours before Mr Alfred Shesakov, the man in charge of Moscow's space programme, landed in Tokyo offering to sell Japanese companies advanced Soviet space development technology.

Parisian vice squad nets its leader during red light raid

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

It was called "Operation Spring Cleaning", a meticulously executed swoop by the Parisian vice squad on one of the capital's most notorious red light districts.

With almost 100 officers of the Brigade de Répression du Proxénétisme on duty, the Rue Saint-Denis in the 10th arrondissement was quickly sealed off and the arrest of prostitutes, pimps and others suspected of involvement in the lucrative sex trade began.

That was when the police came across Chief Divisional Inspector André Pommarde, third in command of their own brigade, in the company of several unsavoury types. To make matters worse, a former

high-ranking officer from the same brigade, now retired, was also present.

Both men face charges of "complicity in the provision of premises for use in prostitution", and although some observers here consider the odds are against them standing trial, the compromising circumstances in which they were picked up, and the events that followed their arrest, threaten to open another can of worms for the Paris police.

Not the best of beginnings, for Mme Martine Montell, who last year became the first woman to head what used to be known as the "Mondaine" division. With some 20 years' street service in the "Mon-

daine" behind him, Inspector Pommarde was considered by colleagues to be an *un fil à la main*, having survived a bout of cancer, he had been given a desk job co-ordinating the brigade's field operations. Shortly after he was detained, last week, the Préfecture of Paris announced that no administrative action would be taken against him.

The next day, however, the investigating magistrate announced that charges had been brought against Inspector Pommarde and the retired policeman, M Raymond Pesean. It was announced yesterday that Inspector Pommarde has been suspended from duty.

Gorbachov calls Estonian leaders to Moscow talks

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

President Arnold Rütel of Estonia and Mr Indrek Toome, the republic's Prime Minister, were summoned to Moscow yesterday for talks with President Gorbachov. It is assumed they will be discussing the possibility that Estonia, like Lithuania, will break with Moscow, first at party level and then by declaring independence.

Preliminary results from the supreme soviet elections in Estonia on Sunday suggest that supporters of independence may gain a two-thirds majority in the Estonian parliament.

The situation in Latvia is less clear but there, too, the Popular Front appears to have made sweeping gains, and the Communist Party has split along ethnic lines. If Mr Gorbachov's strategy in reportedly issuing an ultimatum to Lithuania on Friday was to frighten voters in the other two Baltic republics, it seems to have failed.

Earlier yesterday he had not yet officially received Lithuania's reply to his message, which he denied was an ultimatum. The reply emphasized Lithuania's desire for good relations with Moscow and its wish to honour existing agreements, pending negotiations, but adhered firmly to the position that the country was now independent.

Yesterday the Lithuanian delegation to Moscow told President Gorbachov that President Landsbergis had been unable to meet them, and the Supreme Soviet had refused to accept their message for discussion.

Last night President Landsbergis said Mr Gorbachov had made an appointment to see the delegation in the afternoon. He did not know if it

had been kept. Mr Landsbergis also confirmed that a volunteer force was being created to act as a form of Customs. "We have received evidence that goods, equipment and even hard currency is being taken out of Lithuania," he said.

He said the Government was planning to register reservists, "so that in the event of danger, if we need people to maintain order, we will know where to find them".

Vilnius was calm yesterday, with no continuation of Sunday's overflights by military aircraft. Few people think military intervention likely, though there is considerable concern about the possible behaviour of the Russian and Polish minorities.

In Estonia, a congress of the Communist Party on Friday is expected to lead to a majority of the party declaring its independence of the Soviet Communist Party.

This could lead to a simple split in the Estonian party, with a minority — mostly Russians — remaining with Moscow. Rivalry in the Estonian Communist leadership could also lead to a three-way split, with Mr Rütel continuing to lead an "Estonian Communist Party", while Mr Toome transforms his

"Association of Free Estonians" into a new party with a social democratic ideology. Mr Rütel and Mr Toome may hope that the personal popularity they have gained through "standing up to Moscow" may help them to go on playing a leading role in politics. Both men are reported to have won by large majorities on Sunday. However, observers now give the chances as even that Mr Toome will be replaced by Dr

Edgar Savisaar, his Economics Minister, who resigned from the party in January and has the confidence of radical nationalist groups.

Dr Savisaar has been a strong supporter of the Estonian congress. The support given to this congress by a majority of ethnic Estonians in elections last month means that its leaders hope to establish a form of "joint legislature" between it and the new supreme soviet.

The Estonian Popular Front already claims to have won 25 constituencies in the Estonian parliament. It says another 10 seats went to Communist Party members who support independence, and the remaining 15 to candidates of Interfront, the Soviet loyalist movement. If the remaining 55 results continue this trend, there will be a two-thirds majority in favour of independence.

Although immigration under Soviet rule has made non-Estonians almost 40 per cent of the republic's population, the balance has been tilted in favour of the indigenous population by a law disqualifying as voters all those who have lived in Estonia for less than five years.

In Latvia, moves towards independence have been slowed by the fact that non-Latvians make up almost half the population. The Popular Front however is claiming to have won 120 out of 170 seats decided in the first round of elections. Thirty-one will require second-round elections.

One feature of the elections has been the extinction of the Latvian Communist Party as an independent force and, probably, as an effective party of government.

Ceausescu's top aides win appeal delay



Heads shaven and wearing prison garb — they wore business suits at their original trial — Mr Emil Bobu, conferring with his lawyer, right, Mr Manca Manescu, left, and Mr Ion Dinca, three of the four top aides of Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed Romanian dictator, in Bucharest yesterday after being granted a one-month period in which to prepare their appeal against life sentences for complicity in genocide imposed last

month. The fourth man was Mr Tudor Postelnicu. They won the stay of appeal after arguing that their conviction had no basis in international law (Reuter reports). The four, sentenced for their part in trying to crush Romania's December revolution, argued through their lawyers that, although genocide was an internationally recognized crime, it did not apply to them. "Political massacres cannot be characterized as genocide,"

Mr Virgil Rata, the lawyer for Mr Postelnicu, the former Interior Minister and head of the Securitate, told the court, adding: "We cannot create a law ourselves and just forget international law." The men's lawyers said they had tried without success to collect documentary evidence defining the term genocide from the English, French and American libraries in Bucharest, but Mr Rata said even the massacre of 30,000 com-

munist after an abortive coup in Indonesia in 1965 had not been considered genocide. "After that happened, no state called it genocide. Political facts and political massacres cannot be characterized as genocide," he said. The lawyers have until April 23 to produce documentary evidence of their claim. The four convicted men will remain in detention until then. They all pleaded guilty to the genocide charge at their original trial.

Wallenberg 'was double agent'

By Gabriel Ronay

Raoul Wallenberg, the late Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the gas chambers during the last months of the Second World War, was a double-agent working for American and German intelligence, according to his closest Hungarian collaborator.

Mr Laszlo Hertelendy, an octogenarian Hungarian nobleman who assisted Wallenberg in his rescue mission, broke his silence not to cast aspersions on his friend but "to put the record straight".

In an interview with Budapest Radio he said that he could not contribute to the attempts to solve the "Wallenberg mystery" earlier owing to the Soviet decision, after Wallenberg's arrest by the NKVD in January 1945, to "surround me with a wall of silence".

Mr Hertelendy has shed fresh light on Wallenberg without detracting from his courage and heroism. Wallenberg, Mr Hertelendy recalled, was not a career diplomat. He was appointed First Secretary to the Swedish Legation in Budapest by the Swedish Government at the request of the American War Refugee Board and the World Jewish Congress. Unbeknown to Stockholm, he was also working for US intelligence.

His original brief was to save some 400 to 500 Jews

"with family or business links to Sweden". But Wallenberg decided early on to save as many Jews from the Nazi extermination camps as he could.

Mr Hertelendy said Wallenberg was also working for German intelligence. "In exchange for (American) information", he was allowed with Eichmann's knowledge to save the lives of Jews in a "kind of quid pro quo".

Thus he managed to hand out, with Mr Hertelendy's assistance, Swedish passports to Jews and took them to Swedish-protected houses in the Hungarian capital. By keeping up his "double-act", Wallenberg saved up to 20,000 lives, Mr Hertelendy said.

While Mr Hertelendy could not shed new light on Wallenberg's fate in the hands of the Soviet NKVD after the liberation of Pest in January 1945, he has opened up new avenues of investigations.

Last October, KGB General Vladimir Perezhikov said that Wallenberg died in Lubyanka prison in July 1947.

But according to journalists of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, several Soviet bi-players in the Wallenberg drama are alive and well and eager to talk. There is also Army Archive material, something the Soviet authorities have always denied.

European conservatives back Budapest scholar

By Ernest Beck in Budapest and Daniel Treisman

Less than 24 hours after the landslide victory of East Germany's moderate right, a leading Hungarian centre-right politician met Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London yesterday to discuss the prospects for a right-wing victory in his own country.

Dr Jozsef Antall, a mild-mannered museum director who heads the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), is the focus of hopes for moderate conservatives across the continent. Six days before the Hungarian election, his party faces the challenge of carrying the Christian Democratic tidal wave forward.

The prospect has not escaped Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who provided the medical historian with a Volkswagen Golf to carry him between campaign stops. The Austrian People's Party, the US Republicans and Mrs Thatcher have all weighed in to support.

If he wins on Sunday, Dr Antall will give credibility to the message of Christian Democracy, already emerging as a contender to fill the political and ideological vacuum left behind by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

The loss, it is likely to be to the more radical free-market-ers of the Alliance of Free Democrats, whose power base consists of Budapest intel-

lectuals and former dissidents, and which has been rising inexorably in the polls with the promise of a rapid transition to democracy and free enterprise.

The main issue will be the country's economic future. High inflation, a foreign debt of nearly \$21 billion (£13 billion), and record budget and trade deficits, threaten an economic crisis, while the population is hungry for the material fruits of their new political freedoms.

With the right-wing confounding Germany's pollsters by its spectacular success, Dr Antall seemed to edge towards a more radical economic approach at a press conference yesterday in London, before going on to talks with Mrs Thatcher and other government officials. He said he favoured privatization "within a few years", and insisted upon an "unequivocal market economy".

He added there could be no "third way" between communism and the free market.

In the past, the Forum has distanced itself from the unbridled free market liberalism of the Alliance of Free Democrats. It has said it would impose strict limits on the level of privatization of state firms, from the current 90 per cent to 30 per cent and that it wants an expensive "social cushion" to ease the transition

from a centrally planned to a market economy.

The Forum is running almost neck-and-neck with the Alliance of Free Democrats. The latest polls, released at the weekend before a ban on publishing them went into effect, showed the HDF one per cent ahead, with 21 per cent of the vote.

Founded by writers and rural intellectuals in 1987, the party sees itself as a "peaceful power", combining Christian, liberal, and populist strands, and models itself on West Germany's Christian Democratic Union. Its greatest following is among the provincial middle class in small and medium-sized towns.

Beside the Free Democrats, Dr Antall faces greatest opposition from the Smallholders party, in which his parents were active members before the party was forced underground. The party, which promises to reverse the communists' expropriations and return rural land to its pre-1947 owners, is remembered for the 57 per cent landslide it won in Hungary's last free elections in 1945.

With one quarter of undecided voters leaning towards the Forum, the party could emerge as the leader of a grand, centre-right coalition with Dr Antall as head of government.

Nationalist groups make big poll gains in Ukraine

By Our Foreign Staff

Nationalists in the Ukraine, the most important Soviet republic outside Russia, have scored notable victories in Sunday's second round of elections despite widespread allegations of electoral violations and ballot-rigging.

In the capital, Kiev, candidates of the Democratic Bloc, an alliance formed by the nationalist movement Rukh (which was not registered for the elections) have won 15 out of 22 seats for the Ukrainian parliament.

All parliamentary seats in Lvov have fallen to the Democratic Bloc.

The Democratic Bloc has also claimed control of the city soviet in Kiev and in Lvov, and reports that it has won 70 per cent of the 120 local elections declared so far.

The outcome was not in doubt in the western Ukraine,

stronghold of the nationalist movement, but Kiev is crucial to the maintenance of Communist Party control. Rukh claims that the Ukrainian party leader, Mr Vladimir Ivashko, only secured election because 12,000 troops had recently been drafted in to vote for him, while 5,000 troops had been moved into the district won by the Soviet Army's General Dukhov.

The secretary of Rukh has made a bitter complaint about use of military units to paste up "slandorous" posters against Democratic candidates and to distribute leaflets in favour of the party apparatus.

Allegations of "falsification, intimidation and illegal practices" have been made in the city of Kharkov.

Rukh expects that the Democratic Bloc will win in

nearly all the one-third of 450 parliamentary seats it was permitted to contest, the Communist Party apparatus will win about a quarter of the seats, mainly from rural constituencies where it has tight control, with the remainder going to reformist Communists and independents.

The turn-out in Moscow on Sunday was generally about 5 per cent lower than in the first round of local and republic-level elections held two weeks ago.

Although full results will not be available for the Russian Federation for another week, because of the distances involved, preliminary results from Moscow suggest that the reformers standing with the support of the Democratic Bloc capitalised on their good performance in the first round.

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Albania hints of tolerance

By Daniel Treisman

Hints of a softening of Albania's strict policy against religion are emerging in Europe's last bastion of orthodox Communism, according to four British Muslim missionaries who recently returned from the country.

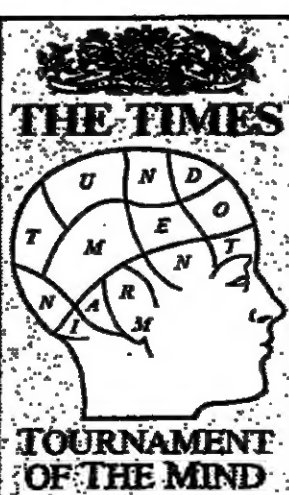
The delegation from the Markazi Mosque in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, attracted sympathetic crowds when they conducted prayers in provincial towns during a nine-day visit with a tourist group.

Though customs officials confiscated most of their Korans and prayer beads when they crossed the border from Yugoslavia, the four Sunni missionaries were not stopped when they held prayers in the street and were welcomed with traditional Muslim greetings from Albanians, some openly wearing prayer beads with little apparent fear.

A Western diplomat in Tirana said the Government now also turned a blind eye to the practice of religion in private homes.

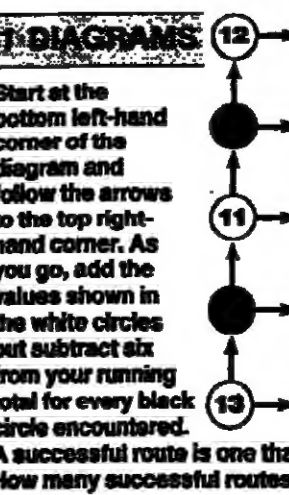
The group, led by Mr Yakub Vali, was the 12th delegation from the Yorkshire mosque in eight years. Previous groups had always faced more interference from the authorities, and met with a more timid response from local Muslims.

The apparent easing up follows minor reforms enacted by the country's leader Mr Ramiz Alia at the ruling People's Labour Party plenum in January. Western diplomats in Tirana believe the softening reflects Mr Alia's growing fear of isolation.



Tournament of the Mind

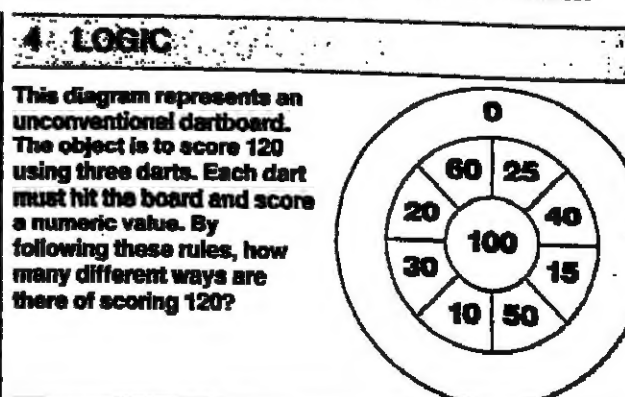
- Round 13 of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind is the next step on your way to winning £5,000. Mensa set the puzzles to test your word power, numeracy, logic and general knowledge.
- At the end of the 20 rounds, the top 100 entrants and the top 10 school teams will compete in a final of five rounds. The winning school receives a computer. The top 10 individual finalists will then take part in a play-off final against the clock in London on May 14 to decide the overall winner.



Start at the bottom left-hand corner of the diagram and follow the arrows to the top right-hand corner. As you go, add the values shown in the white circles but subtract six from your running total for every black circle encountered. A successful route is one that scores a total of 36. How many successful routes are there?

2. VERBAL
Which English word of three letters can be placed before the following words to create four new words?
BATE BET TON YON

3. MATHS
Four cog wheels are in constant mesh. The largest cog has 350 teeth, the next in size has 250 teeth, the next in size has 150 teeth and the smallest has 50 teeth. If the cogs start to revolve, how many complete revolutions will the largest cog need to make before all the cogs are back in the same position?



MISCELLANY
Who appeared in, and wrote, the screenplay for *What's New, Pussycat?* in 1965?

ROUND 13 - ANSWERS
Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in *The Times*

PUZZLES
Answer 1 _____ Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____ Answer 4 _____
MISCELLANY
Answer _____
NAME _____

THE EAST GERMAN ELECTION

IMPLICATIONS FOR MONETARY UNION

Delors presses Bonn to consult EC before currency changes

From Michael Binyon
Brussels

M. Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, warned West Germany yesterday that it would have to consult its Community partners before pressing ahead with monetary union with East Germany.

He also called on Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to make a political gesture to reassure the EC of his continued commitment to European integration. He said his message to him after the Christian Democrats' victory in East Germany was: "Congratulations, but don't forget Europe."

Speaking on French radio, M. Delors

said the Chancellor did not have a free hand in determining the reunification process. Monetary union would not be easy, and West Germany would have to negotiate with its partners on East German accession to the Community.

"Some time will be necessary to change the legislative system, establish a true fiscal system, markets, a state budget and a banking and financial system in East Germany," he said. "This transition system cannot be completed without consultations and the agreement of the other 11 partners in the Community."

Herr Kohl will discuss all this with M. Delors here on Friday. Hinting at the plain talking that might dominate the

encounter, M. Delors said: "The difficult times have begun. We have to discuss this, not just to pour cold water on the Germans' joy, but simply because East Germany is a special case."

On Saturday M. Delors will meet Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Prime Minister of Saarland and Social Democratic candidate against Herr Kohl in December's general election. M. Delors said his message for him was: "Patience, there is still work to be done."

He did not doubt Herr Kohl's commitment to Europe. But he added: "I see worry and frustration in other countries. And so Chancellor Kohl must make a political gesture showing or confirming the full engagement of the

Federal Republic in the building of Europe, and especially in the political union of Europe."

East Germany's entry into the EC would have to be treated like the accession of a new member. It was difficult to arrange its quick entry without a frontier and Bonn would have to discuss this with the other members.

The European Commission's German affairs unit will now begin intensified consultations with Bonn as the German monetary union talks start in earnest.

Mr Hennig Christophersen, the budget commissioner and one of the five-man task force of commissioners, has presented a report which forecasts a growth rate of 0.05 per cent to the Community as a result of reunification. It said there would be an improved trade balance between Germany and the EC, as the Federal Republic's surplus would be reduced and exports by other EC members to a unified Germany would increase.

The report will be submitted to a meeting of EC foreign ministers on April 21 and then to the summit meeting on Germany in Dublin on April 28.

M. Delors has forecast that EC expenditure in such fields as agriculture and regional policy would increase by up to £1.3 billion with East Germany's inclusion in the EC. The cost is still lower than admitting East Germany as a separate state.

Meanwhile, there was quiet jubilation at NATO over the East German election, which appeared to endorse a role under the treaty. Talks on the military status of East Germany are set to dominate the discussions between the four former wartime allies and the two Germanies, and NATO is being very careful not to prejudge their outcome.

The Western European Union, which groups seven of the European NATO allies, is to hold an extraordinary two-day session on unification in Luxembourg, beginning on Thursday. Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister, will also take part.

Cost of unity, page 29

THE WINNERS AND LOSERS

Kohl maps out new order in Europe

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Boosted by his personal triumph in the East German election campaign, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday mapped out the future of a new peace order in Europe in which a united Germany was clearly meant to play a very important role.

In a keynote speech to a session on economic co-operation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), he sought to reassure delegates from 35 nations that a united Germany would be a force for peace and stability in a changing world.

He looked ahead to a European federation which would follow Germany's example by seeking union where there was once division.

"We are at a historical turning point," he said. "A Europe is emerging in which old and new democracies are coming together. As ideological and political antagonism is overcome there is a growing awareness of common ground in Europe."

The Chancellor sought to reassure the delegates — from every European country except Albania, plus the United States and Canada — that there was nothing to fear from German unity. "Nowhere have the scars of the Second World War stayed visible for longer than in divided Germany," he said. "Nowhere, however, is the hope of a peaceful, united Europe stronger than here in Germany. Now we must use all our strength to overcome both divisions peacefully."

Looking ahead, he promised "immediate" talks with the new East German Government on every subject to discuss concrete steps for unity and satisfy the will of the people to build "a united, peaceful, democratic and just society." He insisted that there would be no attempt to rush anyone into unity. He repeated his assurance to Poland that its present borders would be honoured.

He said firmly that, in the interests of peace and stability, a united Germany must not be

neutral but remain in NATO. At the same time he pressed for more arms control and disarmament, backed by credible verification systems.

In a clear reference to Mrs Thatcher's well-known position, he said that West Germany had been building the EC for nearly 40 years now and had abandoned total sovereignty, particularly in the economic area. Now it was ready for further integration, especially on parliamentary accountability.

The Treaty of Rome, he said, had left the door open for future East German membership and a united Germany could be part of the Community without any alteration of the treaty.

"Our political goal remains to hasten European integration as fast as possible," he said. The aim of opening up the EC's frontiers by the end of 1992 and of achieving economic and monetary union remained. The "growing together of the Germanies" would actually give an added boost to growth inside the Community.

This idea was backed by Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, in his speech to the session. "We have a great chance to map out a future built on free markets. The future belongs to a European economic zone, binding together and governed by the rules of the market place."

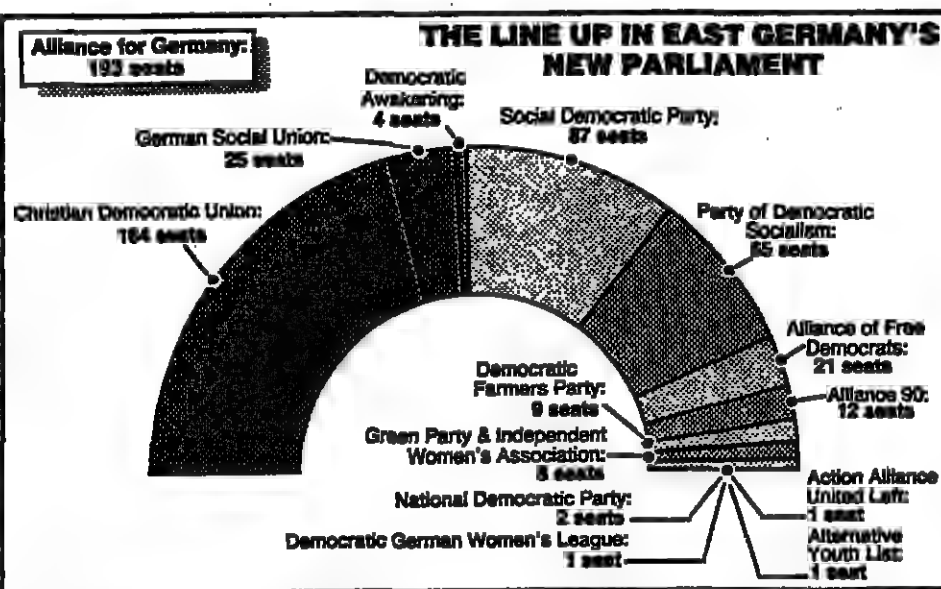
Herr Kohl, encouraging delegates to the special session, said that the CSCE process had a special role to play in creating a new European peace order.

"We have the historic opportunity to change the history of Europe," Herr Kohl said confidently. "The European Confederation, of which President Mitterrand has already spoken, which all the states of our Continent jointly administer for exchanges, peace and security, can really happen — if we want it to."

The Chancellor's speech seemed to foreshadow the arrival of a united Germany at the world's top policy-making and negotiating tables.



Herr Lothar de Maizière, left, and Herr Rainer Eppelmann, discussing their priorities at a press conference in East Berlin.



PROVISIONAL ELECTION RESULTS FOR EAST GERMANY

Party	Votes	%	Seats
Alliance for Germany (conservative coalition of):	5,524,647	48.14	193
Christian Democratic Union (CDU)	4,694,836	(40.91)	(164)
German Social Union (DSU)	724,780	(8.32)	(25)
Democratic Awakening (DA)	105,251	(0.92)	(4)
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	2,506,151	21.84	87
Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) (communist)	1,873,666	16.33	65
Alliance of Free Democrats	806,283	5.28	21
(Liberal alliance of German Forum Party (DFP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Free Democratic Party (FDP))			
Alliance 90	333,005	2.90	12
(Left-wing coalition of New Forum, Democracy Now and Peace & Human Rights Initiative)			
Democratic Farmers Party (DBD)	250,943	2.19	9
Green Party and Independent Women's League	225,234	1.96	8
National Democratic Party (NDPD)	44,436	0.39	2
Democratic German Women's League (DFD)	38,088	0.33	1
Action Alliance United Left (AVL)	20,180	0.18	1
Alternative Youth List (AUL)	14,573	0.13	1
Christian League	10,899	0.09	
German Communist Party (KPD)	8,836	0.08	
European Federalist Party (EFP)	3,690	0.03	
Independent Social Democratic Party (USPD)	3,891	0.03	
Independent People's Party (UVP)	2,999	0.03	
German Beerdrinkers Union (DBU)	2,534	0.02	
Unity Now	2,356	0.02	
German Socialist Workers Party (SPAD)	2,396	0.02	
League of Socialist Workers (BSA/Trotskyite)	374	0	
Union of Work Groups for Workers Policy and Democracy (VAA)	373	0	
European Union of East Germany	n/a	n/a	

ELECTION IN WEST GERMANY

Saarland radical to challenge buoyant Chancellor

From Ian Murray
Bonn

Herr Oskar Lafontaine bravely agreed yesterday to stand against a supremely confident Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, as the leading Social Democratic candidate in the West German general election next December.

Flushed with the success in Sunday's election of the East German Alliance he formed and inspired, Herr Kohl yesterday was already thinking well beyond his contest with the radical Saarland Prime Minister.

Almost taking the December result for granted, he seemed certain that he would realize his ambition to be the first Chancellor of a reunited Ger-

many. The victory in East Germany by his Alliance, he announced after a happy strategy session of his Christian Democrats (CDU), would be followed by victory in the first elections of a united Germany. These would probably be held next year.

Herr Kohl said the "admirable" victory of the Alliance for Germany parties showed that the voters had already decided that reunification would lead to a structural alteration of the German political landscape. He said he would advise the Alliance leaders to include SPD representatives in their coalition Government in order to tackle the huge problems of East Germany.

Herr Lafontaine seemed even more aware of these problems than the

Chancellor, and he is clearly looking to them to destroy the CDU's strength between now and December. During the last week of the campaign, he said, the Chancellor had given the impression that a vote for the CDU would be a vote for "the quick Deutschmark". People's expectations were now immensely high and there would be enormous disillusionment which would undermine the CDU's position.

Herr Lafontaine spoke of the need for a "cautious" transition period. Unlike Herr Kohl he did not support the idea of a one-for-one conversion rate for Ostmarks into Deutschmarks for savers. The consequences of that, he said, would fuel inflation and undermine the economy. He was sure,

too, that a rapid reunification process threatened to create unemployment.

"The Chancellor must either break his promises here or in East Germany," he said.

Herr Lafontaine has put his finger on the problem which Herr Kohl must solve — that of finding quick money to improve living standards in East Germany without raising taxes in the West. The acid test will be whether he can stop the flow of East Germans coming West.

Improving living standards will need money, which Herr Kohl had refused to give until a freely elected East German Government was in place, ready to create a free-market economy in which West German industry would be prepared to invest.

CELEBRATIONS

Beer for the left sweetens defeat

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

The beaming faces of the Communist Party supporters downing celebration beers at the newly jazzed-up headquarters on the Marx-Engels Platz in the early hours of yesterday morning looked incongruous with the national voting tables behind them.

When in the dawn light it was finally announced that the conservative Alliance for Germany had won a landslide victory, someone yelled out "make Berlin a red island" to loud cheers and calls for yet more beers.

East Berlin might as well be cut off by water from the provinces it governed for 40 years for the extent to which it bucked the national trend, yielding a mirror image of the results in the rest of East Germany.

Here the Social Democrats gained 35 per cent with the renamed, reformed and self-confident communist party just 5 per cent behind while the Christian Democrats had their worst showing with only 18 per cent of the vote compared with a national average of 41 per cent.

Since the division of the country, Berlin has always been described in both Germanies as "different". Both West and East Berlin are more bohemian, more left-wing than that the metropolises of Munich or Leipzig. The cultural heroes up here remain Brecht, Tucholsky and Lotte Lenya; down there they prefer the less radical strains of Goethe, Bach and Volksmusik.

The historical character of Berlin was both perverted and intensified in the East by the communist tenet of democratic centralism which made East Berlin a bastion for the servants of the system.

East Berlin's result reflects what the vast majority of pollsters, politicians and commentators thought would happen nationally. In the event it was an aberration, not a trend-setter.

The false authority of the socialist capital was shown as impotent; the provinces took their revenge gleefully. Judging by the discrepancy with opinion polls last week, they also took it stealthily.

ROAD TO REUNIFICATION

The favoured 'express route' is opened up

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The unexpected but clear dominance of the Christian Democrats in the freely elected East German Government means that reunification will now come about by the "express route" allowed by the West German Basic Law.

It is the way favoured by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who will certainly now be irresistible in advising, prompting and encouraging the new Government to follow it.

The Basic Law itself has served as West Germany's Constitution and the date of its confirmation by the Parliamentary Council in May, 1949, is celebrated as the anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic. The idea was that the Basic Law would lay the foundations of a stable democracy capable of withstanding the pressures which had led to the decline of the Weimar Republic and the emergence of the Nazis.

At the same time it was to be merely a stop-gap measure, designed to last until such time as reunification allowed all the German people to have their own constitution.

The preamble to the Basic Law makes this clear: "The German People... conscious of their responsibility before God and men, animated by the resolve to preserve their national and political unity and to serve the peace of the world as an equal partner in a united Europe, desiring to give a new order to political life for a transitional period, have enacted, by virtue of their constituent power, this Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany."

"They have also acted on behalf of those Germans to whom participation was denied. The entire German people are called upon to achieve in free self-determination the unity and freedom of Germany."

This preamble has been at the heart of the argument over recognizing the Polish frontier. Among "those Germans to whom participation was denied" are those still living in the areas east of the Oder-Neisse rivers and who — according to the Basic Law — should still be allowed "to achieve in free self-determination the unity and freedom of Germany" before the "transitional period" is over.

While gathering in the people of East Germany, therefore, Herr Kohl has had to accept that the rest of the world will not permit all the Germans denied participation in 1949 to achieve unity through self-determination.

Another important issue which must be resolved concerns property rights. If the Basic Law is simply adopted in East Germany, West German citizens with family property or land in the East will be able to claim back property used by East German families for decades.

International issues also have to be addressed. Resolving the question of NATO membership, of the status of German territory and of Soviet troops on it will be difficult.

EUROPEAN SECURITY

Nato membership is stumbling block

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Soviet Union faces a serious dilemma now that it has become clear that even its allies support the West's view that a unified Germany must be a member of Nato.

Within the Warsaw Pact and Nato there is general agreement that a new European security framework will have to be worked out but, in the transitional period, while the two military alliances still exist, Moscow says it cannot accept that a unified Germany in Nato would be in its security interests.

It was clear from the meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in Prague at the weekend that Moscow is not prepared to compromise until an agreement has been reached to reduce West Germany's military strength. Moscow wants the Bundeswehr cut down to size and is obviously playing the neutrality card as a negotiating ploy to that end.

Moscow would like to be seen as a fervent supporter of

any country's right to self-determination, but in Germany's case it has to be conditional. Its allies agree — but not if the condition is German neutrality.

For the West, Germany's membership of Nato is not negotiable. Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, has made this clear to President Gorbachev, and Washington and London have echoed his message.

Mr Gorbachev, however, has a problem. He cannot accept this position without a fight, even though he must realize that it is the only practical solution during the reshaping of Europe.

● BONN: The next round of "two plus four" talks between the Germanies and the Second World War Allies will take place in East Berlin, probably before the end of the month (Ian Murray writes). From now on the Soviet Union will be alone in expressing any objection to a united Germany remaining in Nato.

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World
net
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David

Worldwide net of art crime

The £130m haul from a Boston gallery has highlighted a growing worldwide problem, David Sapsted reports

The weekend's £130 million theft from the Gardner Museum in Boston sent a ripple of fear yesterday through an arts world already struggling to come to terms with the increasing involvement of international syndicates in such robberies.

In the past decade, the number of art thefts worldwide has tripled, while the clear-up and recovery rate has fallen from 22 per cent to just 5 per cent, according to the International Foundation of Art Research in New York.

"Arts thefts are becoming an enormous problem. I worry every time I leave the gallery at night," says Dr Christopher White, director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The extent of the problem was illustrated by Scotland Yard's decision last year to revive its arts and antiques squad. Dealers had been so concerned about its abolition that they offered to pay for its re-introduction themselves.

The annual value of the market in stolen works of art is put conservatively at a minimum of £250 million, although the figure is rendered meaningless because auction prices are constantly setting new records.

The thefts usually receive little publicity because the most common targets are lesser works. The market in both legitimate and stolen works is now so large that most pieces can be moved internationally through legal channels because dealers, museums and galleries are unable to keep track of what has or has not been stolen.

Even major works can slip through: a statue of Aphrodite from the 5th century BC which now graces the Getty Museum in Malibu, California, is believed by the Italians to have been stolen in Sicily and shipped in pieces by the

Mafia. The Gardner Museum theft falls into a quite different category, however. The haul, especially the Vermeer and two Rembrandts, is so well known that it would be impossible to sell openly. This raises the possibility of either a steal-to-order assignment for an obsessed, billionaire collector or (more likely, according to sources in Britain yesterday) an exercise in insurance extortion.

All the Boston works were insured and thieves operate on the principle that insurers would prefer to pay 10 per cent to have the paintings "recovered" rather than meet the full cost of the loss.

The idea of wealthy private collectors prepared to commission thefts is a popular scenario for novelists and movie-makers but it is almost impossible to prove.

Det Sgt Anthony Russell, a member of the arts and antiques squad at Scotland Yard, said: "If it was local criminals, they will realize straight away that these pictures are unsaleable. They are so well known. If it was a contract job, the police will be dealing with something quite different."

"Pictures can go underground for years. They would never appear on the open market because they would be recognized, so they are sold privately. They pass through various hands on the black market until they find a home with a fervent collector. When these people see a picture they want, they go after it, come what may. They want it for themselves and nothing else matters."

Nevertheless, Interpol, which coordinates the European-wide search for stolen works, believes that Zurich "gnomes" and South American drugs barons could have their share of major works that have disappeared in recent years.

It is the increasing involvement



Two of the stolen paintings from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston: Rembrandt's "A Lady and A Gentleman in Black" and Vermeer's masterwork "The Concert"



THIEVES WITH A £130-MILLION SHOPPING LIST

of crime syndicates that most bothers police. The French authorities, for example, still believe a gang with links to international criminals based in Japan carried out the theft of nine Impressionist masterpieces, including five Monets and a Renoir, from the Marmottan Museum in Paris five years ago.

Other robberies obviously had no buyer in mind. The remains of the £30 million-plus theft in 1986 from the collection of Sir Alfred Beit, in County Wicklow, in the Republic of Ireland, are still believed to be in Dublin. One man recently receiving a two-year sentence for trying to sell some of the pictures to a London art dealer.

A total of 17 paintings, including ones by Goya, Velazquez and Vermeer, were taken in that raid, but six were recovered soon afterwards and a seventh, by the 17th Century Dutch painter Gabriel Metsu, was found in Turkey last month. The attempted Turkish sale is being linked with the Ulster Volunteer Force, the North Ireland paramilitary organization.

Terrorists and their supporters have been behind other famous thefts. The Times was used as a

medium for messages when, in 1974, IRA sympathizers stole Vermeer's "The Guitar Player". It was eventually recovered in a London churchyard.

Motives for thefts have differed enormously. The unemployed truck driver convicted after the disappearance in 1961 of Goya's "Duke of Wellington" from the National Gallery (recovered four years later) said he did it to protest the government's decision not to give pensioners free television licences.

And in the most famous theft of them all, the Italian carpenter who stole Leonardo's Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911, said when he was caught that it was in revenge for Napoleon's rape of Italian art treasures. It later transpired that a South American businessman had sold six high-class reproductions of the work while it was missing to unscrupulous American collectors.

The record for the world's most stolen painting goes to Rembrandt's portrait of Jacob van Gheyn, which disappeared from the Dulwich Picture Gallery in 1967, 1973, 1981 and for the very last time, one assumes, in 1983.

Vermeer's "The Concert" appears to have been the real prize of the world's largest art theft, the £130 million robbery from the Gardner Museum in Boston. Fewer than 40 Vermeers are known to exist, and none of them is in private hands, except for one in the Queen's collection. But the 17th-century Dutch master has been the target of many thefts.

His "The Guitar Player" was stolen from Kenwood House, London, in 1974 but recovered, and "The Love Letter" was cut out of its frame while on loan in Belgium from Amsterdam.

"Woman Writing a Letter With a Maid Servant" was stolen twice from Russborough House, the Irish country seat of Sir Alfred Beit, the first time in 1974 by the IRA, and after its recovery again in 1986. It has been missing ever since.

"The Concert", taken from Boston, is one of Vermeer's finest and best preserved works. Mr Franklin Robinson, an expert on

Dutch paintings and director of the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, said: "It is not just a Vermeer; it's a very good Vermeer from the 1660s, the high point of his work. No matter how many hundreds of millions you have got you cannot buy a Vermeer, so you commission someone to steal one."

The thieves, who posed as police and bound and gagged security guards at the museum before dawn on Sunday, appeared to have a shopping list topped by the work, according to Mr Robinson.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is housed in a four-storey turn-of-the-century mansion, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace. It displays 290 paintings and 2,000 other works collected by Mrs Gardner, an eccentric Boston socialite who died in 1924, and is considered one of the best small collections in America.

The stolen works were taken from two rooms on the second floor, including the museum's

Dutch room, and from a first-floor gallery. The thieves bypassed the Italian works for which the collection is best known, including a Titian called "Rape of Europa" which has been called "arguably the greatest painting in America".

"The Concert" was acquired by Mrs Gardner at auction in Paris for \$6,000 (£3,700), using her favourite secret bidding technique of dropping a handkerchief.

● The works stolen along with "The Concert" were: "A Lady and A Gentleman in Black", "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee", and a self-portrait by Rembrandt; "Landscape with an Obelisk", by Giovanni Flicck, another 17th-century Dutchman; "La Sortie du Pesage", "Cortège aux Environs de Florence", "Three Mounted Jockeys", "Program for an Artistic Soirée", and another, less complete work by Edgar Degas; "Chez Tortoni", by Edouard Manet; A Chinese bronze beaker from the Shang Dynasty, 1,200-1,100 BC.

James Bone

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Port Harcourt

This column being unavoidably detained in Nigeria, we shall briefly consider that country's proposal to return itself to full civilian rule by 1992, which I trust will end any attempts to have its ex-ministers smuggled out of Stansted Airport. In 1993, President Ibrahim Babangida, who took power in the 1993 military coup and who has been a behind-the-scenes string-puller in every coup since General Gowon was toppled in 1975, is taking the transition seriously. Next week those eligible among the country's burgeoning 120 million population will be able to register, if they wish, as members of one of the two political parties Babangida has created (the banned original 13 political groupings which applied to become parties, on the grounds that they were merely old wine in new bottles). What Margaret and Neil, and undoubtedly Paddy would envy is that he has provided funds for each of the two parties to open an office in each of the 480 constituencies, staffed by civil servants, to act as recruiting centres.

Despite his military background, many Nigerians regard Babangida as the best politician they have ever had. "He is a clever general," runs the oft-heard remark. "He keeps the troops busy even when there isn't a war." The cleverest thing of all is that he has done nothing to dispel the ill-founded rumour that parents will not be able to send their children to school unless they join one or other party. No wonder Tass news agency has appointed a professor of constitutional law as its correspondent in Lagos to observe how it's done.

So offended was the government here by some of the wilder excesses of conspicuous consumption during Nigeria's oil-boom years of the 1970s that it banned, among other delights, champagne. The ban remains, but conspicuous consumers are not so easily deterred. Much is smuggled over the border from Benin, and an ersatz local variety is produced from kola nuts. It is possible, but much too sweet, rather like that English apple-based substance we know as Fomagne. Being one of the world's largest producers of cocoa, Nigeria is also trying to make a few naira by turning some of its improbably into wine. The faint chocolate bouquet is almost as off-putting as one of the leading brand names of dry white: Harmanian is a hot dusty wind that blows from the Sahara and simultaneously chokes the throat, stings the eyes and blurs the view.

O! I enjoy the admonition beside the no-smoking signs on Lagos buses that "Preaching is prohibited". I gather that it predates Mrs Thatcher's visit.

BARRY FANTONI



"Nerthinks be doth protest too little..."

Nigeria's foul civil war is a distant memory, but the secessionist Biafran leader, Lt-Col Emeka Ojukwu, is still alive and well and living in Lagos. He retired from active politics after standing for the federal senate in 1983, and losing. In common with all other former holders of political office — he was governor of the Eastern Region before attempting to break away — he is banned from standing for the new order of the third republic. But there is life in the old rebel yet. Like all retired politicians, he is writing his memoirs — and, although he is well into his fifties, he was recently photographed in the close company of last year's exceedingly pretty Miss Nigeria, who was not even born when the Biafran war began in 1967.

Being trapped in a Lagos traffic jam is a major hazard of Nigerian life. Itinerant vendors who live on the central reservation descend on the imprisoned motorists and thrust their wares with indefatigable persistence through the car windows. During one trying 45-minute journey across town, this column was implored to purchase a television set, a doormat, three bunches of bananas, several shirts and T-shirts, a set of car-mirrors, an umbrella, numerous bags of nuts, a telephone, two ironing-boards, a pocket calculator, an inflatable globe, a Japanese microwave oven, and one dead chicken with its feathers on.

As of this morning, more precisely as of this dawn, there is a new noise to plague the shallow sleeper. New, at any rate, to me.

I have, over the subsonic years, grown accustomed to most of the signs and clicks and grunts and moans and squeals and mutterings that rise from the no-man's land between sleep and waking, before the very light arcs upwards from the unscrambling brain to identify their various sources and claim the urban hearth ever on the *qui vive* for jenny and football.

I have been nudged from dreams by joists creaking confidentially to one another, and doors unlatching themselves, and radiators tuning up, and sashes rattling inward at the gale, and I have semi-consciously ticked the noise off the list and slid back, reassured, into sleep. I have heard the fridge wake and juggle loose

Few governments have faced such a battery of unfavourable opinion polls as Mrs Thatcher's team faces now. If the current figures in Mid-Staffordshire are repeated on Thursday, Labour will sweep away a Conservative majority of 14,654 to emerge with a majority of 13,000 or more. This would represent the biggest by-election swing from Tory to Labour since Fulham East in October 1933.

The swing of 13 per cent required for a bare Labour majority in Mid-Staffs is considerably more than the 8.1 per cent swing which Labour needs to win the next general election. And no government has ever recovered from a 20 per cent deficit in the national polls to win outright the subsequent general election. The national polls of present voting intentions at the next election show Labour with a 20.5 per cent lead, but Tories scratching for crumbs of comfort can find some.

Labour won the Fulham by-election in 1986 on a swing sufficient to give it victory at the next election if repeated nationally, only to see Mrs Thatcher win in 1987 with a majority of 100. The Tories' share of the vote at Warrington, Croydon

and Crosby fell by more than 20 per cent in the early 1980s as the SDP/Liberal Alliance took off, yet they won the next two general elections with ease.

As for the national poll standings, the Tories' current low point in this Parliament — 34 per cent — compares favourably with the lows of 31 per cent in the 1983-87 Parliament and only 23 per cent in the 1979-83 Parliament. However, in those years, the votes were shared between three effective parties, not two.

Certainly with today's highly volatile electorate, all governments must expect violent swings against them in mid-term. Furthermore, arithmetically, Labour's task remains daunting. Mr Kinnock's party needs an election-time swing of 8.1 per cent to move into government. The biggest swing achieved by any party in post-war years is 5 per cent, and the biggest previously achieved by Labour is 3 per cent.

Robin Oakley sees Labour still having to struggle for a majority

Hanging in the balance

Labour takes much comfort from the achievement of 1984, when a similar Tory majority of around 100 was overturned. But at the start of that Parliament in 1989, Labour had 258 seats in a smaller House of Commons of 630 and needed to capture only 58 for victory. At the 1987 general election, Labour had only 229 seats to the Conservatives' 376 in a Parliament of 650 (with 45 representatives from other parties). To win an overall majority next time, it must take at least 93 seats from the Tories and four from the Liberal Democrats. That means winning not only marginal seats, but Tory strongholds in Home Counties suburbs.

The current poll ratings derive not from Labour's popularity, but from the unpopularity of the Government. At the last election, Labour finished in second place to the Conservatives in only 132 seats, while candidates from the Alliance were second in

226. If a desire to be rid of the Conservatives is the driving power behind many votes at the next election, it is questionable whether those in constituencies where Labour came third will identify the Labour candidate as the one to beat the Tory.

The Liberal Democrats are making no impact in national polls at the moment, but as the council election results demonstrated last year, they have a strong base in local government to which they have been able to retreat. That was what ensured Labour's failure to make a real breakthrough in the South and Midlands in last year's council elections, and the unnoticed story of the Mid-Staffs by-election polls is that the Liberal Democrats have seen off the Greens to emerge again in a clear third place.

No one believes that Labour's lead will continue to be so great, and as it is reduced, other factors will come into play to com-

plicate the figures. The effect of a revised Parliament may be to help incumbent MPs, particularly those in minor parties, against their challengers. And whereas in the 1950s a 1 per cent swing from Conservative to Labour was enough to see 18 seats change hands, today it would be only 10.

Whether or not Labour can win the next election is one question; another is whether the Conservatives will lose it. What matters is whether Labour can achieve the 4.6 per cent swing from Conservative to Labour required to cause a loss of 52 Conservative seats and so of Mrs Thatcher's majority. What everybody seems to be forgetting, partly because we no longer have a strong force in the political centre talking about winning the balance of power, is that the odds are at present that we are heading towards a hung parliament. Virtually anything between a 3 per cent Conser-

vative lead in the polls and a 4 per cent Labour lead is likely to deliver a hung parliament.

How the parties would behave in such a situation is the subject of anguished debate. For the moment we know that Mr Kinnock will insist on trying to govern with a minority, leaving others to vote him down and stage another election, rather than doing a deal with the Liberal Democrats on proportional representation. But with the PR tide running strongly in Labour's ranks, second thoughts could be forced upon him.

We know that Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats would not do a deal to sustain in power a Tory government still led by Mrs Thatcher, but they have not ruled out co-operation with either major party on the right terms. We could see the Ulster Unionists gaining the whip hand over the future of the Anglo-Irish Agreement if their co-operation became vital to the maintenance of a Conservative government. And what would be the price of Scottish and Welsh Nationalist support? As the question of a hung parliament becomes live and the discussions begin, such complications may increase the reluctance to let go the hand of nurse.

Communism down but far from dead

Helmut Kohl was the big winner in the East German general election. For the Social Democrats, in West as well as East Germany, the results were an unmitigated disaster. The view of much of the West German media — the result, perhaps, of wishful thinking — that an emerging sense of East German national identity would scupper the Christian Democrats with their insistence on rapid reunification, proved utterly wrong. In retrospect it was absurd to expect East Germans to take pride in their corrupt and oppressive country.

A weekend is a long time in politics. Suddenly the days when the East German SPD was coasting to victory and Oskar Lafontaine, the West German Social Democratic candidate for the chancellorship, was well ahead of Mr Kohl in the opinion polls have vanished like a mirage. The prospect of a general election throughout Germany in December looms, overshadowing the SPD's jaunty optimism.

The Social Democrats have a further problem: the better than expected showing of the communists. Gregor Gysi must have feared that the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the lineal descendant of the old Communist Party which he has led since December, was heading for catastrophe. In the event, it emerged with 16 per cent of the vote. In East Berlin, the PDS was only 5 per cent behind the SPD's 35 per cent.

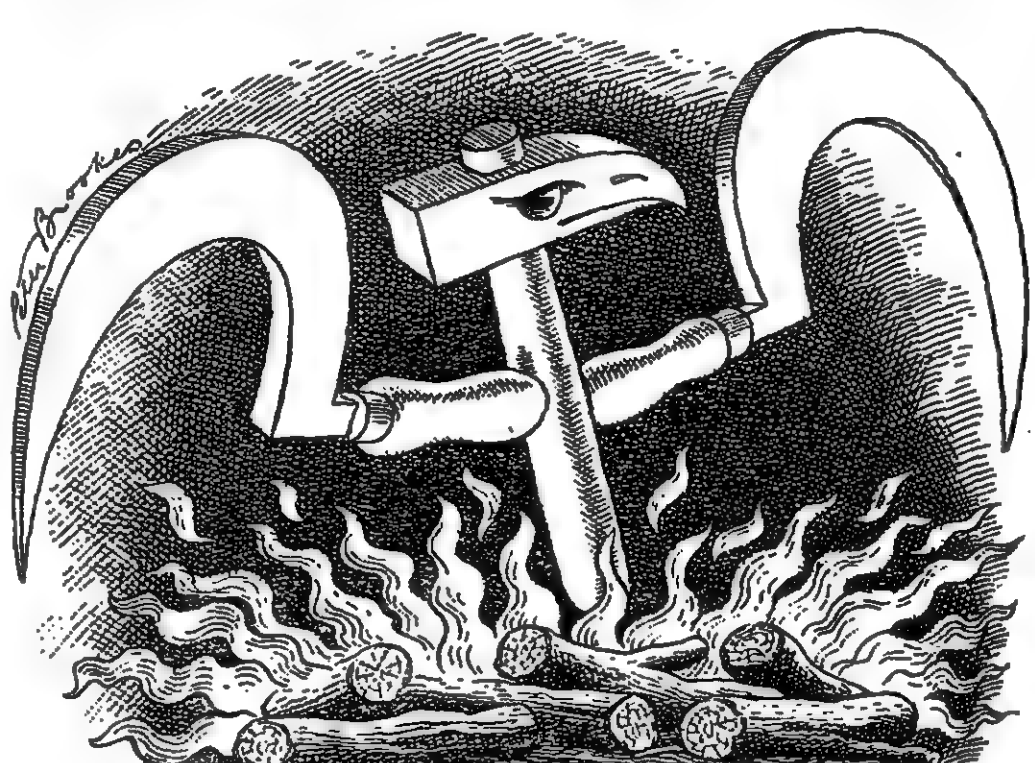
Already Gysi has announced that his party will be the "conscience" of the new united Germany. If the PDS can hold on to most of its voters in what was once the GDR and pick up 2 or 3 per cent in the old Federal Republic, it will be a viable left-wing alternative to the SPD with seats in the Bundestag and the whip hand over the party of Brandt and Lafontaine, who will need its support to have any chance of forming a government.

But Lafontaine will also need the votes of the Greens. To embrace them and a party staffed by ex-communists at the same time will surely be deadly to a candidate who needs to garner the support of the middle ground of German politics.

Neil Kinnock, who met Gysi in East Berlin soon after he replaced the wolfish but wooden Egon Krenz, thought him like "one of us", but insofar as Gysi is recognizably a Westerner, he is also a vote-loser to any genuinely social democratic party.

The significance of Sunday's election goes beyond the implications for Germany East and West. For the first time, the people of a socialist state have had the chance to retain some form of socialism or adopt a market economy. The great majority opted for union with their rich Western brothers, but at least 16 per cent chose not to.

Support for the PDS must have been based on the *apparatchiks*, the police and other beneficiaries of the old regime, but clearly it went further. Some



After the East German elections, Mark Almond finds the economic certainties of the old order still appeal to many over the unknown

of the hundreds of thousands who voted for Gysi's party must have been fearful of unemployment and other social problems of the West constantly described by the East German media (still dominated by former communists) and reinforced by West German television, which has conjured up an underclass in West Germany rivaling that of the BBC's legions of homeless and deprived in Britain.

What many bourgeois triumphalists in the West do not comprehend is that few people in Eastern Europe understand how a market economy delivers the goods. There is also a widespread belief that Western workers live in the grip of a monstrous efficiency which brooks not the slightest mistake. It is very difficult to explain to many East Europeans that in the West, even petty theft from one's employer — let alone sloppy work — is often not regarded as a legitimate reason for dismissal by industrial tribunals.

Unemployment is the fear that most haunts the newly liberated peoples throughout Eastern and Central Europe. Even if they can be persuaded that in a Western-style society their health and safety at work would be better protected than ever before, and even if they accepted that those with jobs will not lose them for turning up five minutes late, many know that their factories are unviable and will have to close without continued subsidies. They also know that their rents are too low to pay for repairs to the shoddy flats in which they live, and that the

subsidies on their tram fares are ridiculously high. More than anything else, they believe that if the subsidies are withdrawn from factories, housing and transport, money will not be found for the dole.

Many West Germans talk glibly about what is needed to revive the economies of Eastern Europe. They retail their own experience of an economic miracle built out of the ruins of the Reich, and urge the East Europeans to imitate the currency reform of June 1948. However, they forget the advantages West Germany enjoyed after the Second World War. Millions of managers, technicians and workers were waiting to be put back to work, using skills and methods they had not forgotten. Punctuality, conscientiousness and teamwork were as essential to the *Wirtschaftswunder* as the Deutschmark and Marshall Aid.

In the East, scores of thousands of managers and millions of workers will need not only to be retrained, but re-socialized. They have been used to working in a system summed up in the saying "I pretend to pay you and you pretend to work." It will not be easy to change a mentality created by 40 years of life in a society in which connections or the black market were the best way to get goods and services.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia has shown little enthusiasm for economic restructuring, and his country's communists are already running a campaign criticizing the sale of

national "assets" to Westerners. Those assets are, of course, worthless factories churning out pollution rather than goods, but they employ many people and the Czech party talks confidently of polling more than 20 per cent.

The Romanian National Salvation Front is using the same combination of nationalist slogans and fear of the unknown to bolster its chances of winning the elections on May 20. When old communists such as Ladislav Adamce and Ion Iliescu talk about following a "third way" between capitalism and communism, what they intend is the preservation of the old economic structures with a more palatable political facade.

The devotion of Eastern Europe's new leaders to ultra-democratic views also bodes well for the communists. Proportional representation guarantees them seats and perhaps even places at the cabinet tables. With such a showing, it will be difficult for either Western governments or local opponents to ignore their views.

Except in Romania, the street revolutions of last autumn were more like carnivals than revolutions; but how much longer will the good humour hold? If the West Germans are considered overbearing by their East German neighbours, how will the people of Prague or Budapest react to Germany's growing economic dominance? So far, the West has sent free-market ideologues and carpetbaggers to inaugurate a new era. Things may turn nasty unless many more people see more of the normal features of Western market democracy developing in the East. Helmut Kohl's biggest problem may yet turn out to be the course of economic relations between a united Germany and its Eastern neighbours, not the ghost of past border disputes.

The author is a lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford.

Philip Howard: Old words for new

Counting by noddles

The poll tax or community charge has resurrected at least two words that have been dormant in English for a great many centuries. Call it what you will, the impost has linguistic as well as political and social consequences, as do most things under the sun and moon and the cold, unexpressed stars. Everything we do impinges on our language, as soon as we do it.

One of its revived meanings is *poll* (as head) itself, which has been given the kiss of life by the Government's dodgy and controversial replacement for the rates. This word came into Middle English in the 13th century from the Dutch and Low German *polle*, your topknot, or crown of your head, the part I hit on the top of the door-frame so often, with jumping around and obscenities, that I ought to wear a crash helmet.

The *poll* or head came to be used to mean one individual in a crowd or list, one of a number, as a shepherd counts the *polls* of sheep, or a master takes roll-call at what Eton describes, with ancient lateral logic, as Absence. Thence, as taxes became more systematic in the Middle Ages, *poll* tax became a way of counting or taxing individuals. It was naturally unpopular with those who had until then avoided tax by having it paid for them by their feudal superiors.

Poll branched out, survived, and flourished greatly into this century to describe voting, and also the bogus pseudo-science invented by George Horace Gallup, the public opinion poll — a lucrative spectator sport which consists of asking various allegedly carefully selected heads a lot of silly or slanted questions, and then gulling newspapers into publishing their answers, at exorbitant price, as though these signified something interesting or sensational.

If you want to take the Juvenalian view that every day, in every way, the world is going to the dogs, you could advance the importance attached by *fatherheads* to *opinion polls* as evidence of our intellectual deterioration. The original meaning of *poll* as head was blotted out by its new role in the democratic process.

The older meaning of a *poll* tax, or tax head by head, can be seen in the old chronicles: "The people greatly murmured for the payment of four pence the *poll*." When Wat Tyler killed a *poll* tax collector who, tradition says, had grossly insulted his daughter, the incident sparked into rebellion the discontented Militants of the day in south-east England. Wat Tyler was cut down by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Walworth, at Smithfield. King Richard II prudently offered himself as the rebels' leader in his place. The peasants dispersed, and their demands came to nothing. But ever since the authorities have been nervous about using the words *poll* tax. It was levied again in 1531, and then in 1667. But *poll* tax had become too words in the English lexicon.

The other word that has been reawakened after a long sleep by our 1990 *poll* tax or community charge is *poind*: to seize and sell under a warrant the goods of somebody who refuses to pay his or her *poll* tax. Because this is happening only in Scotland so far, we have so far met only the Scottish variant of the word. It comes from the Old English *pyndan* to enclose, shut in, impound (to which it is related).

The *oi* is a 16th-century spelling, which has been retained by the Scottish lawyers, who are as ferociously conservative as lawyers everywhere. *C'est, after all, leur métier*. Lawyers are there to enforce the letter (in this case the two letters) of the law. That is where the catchphrase about the letter of the law comes from. But the *oi* is not pronounced as a diphthong. The Scots say "poind", recalling the word's roots before the 16th-century *oi* came in.

Poind is found widely in Scottish writing (mostly, in the way of the world, legal writing) from the 14th century onwards. Here are two literary examples of the forgotten word. Burns in *Two Dogs*: "He'll apprehend them, poind their gear." And *The Lament of the Border-Widow*, from Francis Child's great collection of English and Scottish Popular Ballads, published in five volumes between 1882 and 1898: "He slew my knight, and poind his gear."

English English, as usual, developed along a different branch from Scottish English. The English word *poind* derived from Old English *pyndan* is spelt and pronounced *poind*, and has been obsolete in English law, in the sense of to impound or detain, for five centuries. It survives only in the obsolete dialect to describe an uncomfortable disease exclusively confined to suckling lambs: "Their excrement berks together their tattles and hinder parts, and soe stoppe their fundament, the sheepbeards phrase is that such lambs are *poinded*, and that they must bee sette at liberty." Rattle your dags is what Australians say in such cases.

With the arrival of our *poll* tax bills next month in England, we shall in the normal course of tax collection soon meet with *poinding* down in England too. Or shall we adopt the illogical and erroneous Scottish 16th-century misprint, *poind*? Political disturbance brings to life old words. When the North-Sea pipelines were dug deep across the eastern counties, teasels that had slept deep down for centuries were rudely woken up, and sprouted above to mark the line of the oil.

Change in society and the law creates new jargon. It may not be much fun to have one's television set seized and removed for sale for the local authority by an officer with a warrant, but nor was it in Wat Tyler's days, when it was your pig or your pitchfork that was *poinded*. At least it is some consolation that the words for the nasty business are rooted deep in history.

What cure for the new-tech ham?



ALAN COREN

sheetsworth unspooled from its lip. I tore the paper off, squinted, focused. "FAXHAM" it said at the top, in large caps. It had come from Faxham;

where was Faxham? Some ghastly grid-streets New Town custom-created to serve the electronic era, a place of windowless modulated aluminium complexes where time was irrelevant and hard-eyed, unsleeping youths in floral braces and tasselled loafers scuttled day and night between banks of clattering hardware, breaking briefly from their career-paths only for savage bouts of squash and lechery?

I read on, and discovered that Faxham was not this at all. Faxham was not even a place, Faxham was a genus. The paragraph dependent from the title explained that the faxham was of the radio ham, a component of a

vast network of like-minded enthusiasts, a member of a covert brotherhood, an officer in an elite subversive cadre.

In other words, a lonely crackpot who had managed to get his hands on a device capable of trawling the night on the offchance that other lonely crackpots might be seduced into his ghastly fellowship. He had not faxed me specifically, he continued, since he did not know me from Adam — the faxham simply tapped arbitrarily into the void, like a Voyager mission broken free from its solar tether and hoping sometime, somewhere, to encounter responsive life.

It occurred to me, since he had

of course left his number, to fax back a curt message pointing out that the way he could know me from Adam was by recalling that Adam was the one able to hide himself even from the Lord God among the trees of the garden, as the result of the Lord God's oversight in failing to provide Adam with a fax machine; but I reflected that I had not been born yesterday. I have learned that not only does a crackpot not require one word of encouragement, one word of discouragement is usually enough to have him gorging himself to you with hoops of steel. Ignore them, is the only course with crackpots.

So I switched the machine off. I looked at it for a bit. The slogan which had drawn me to it in the first place had been: "The world at your fingertips." Of the world's fingertips, nobody had seen fit to say a word.

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A KIND OF WILD JUSTICE

No episode in modern history was so infamous as the Nazi campaign of genocide, and civilization itself must for ever turn its face in shame. The debate about the desirability of trying Nazi war criminals in Britain is in no way a debate about this fundamental judgement. If the only question was whether Britain still believed it, there could be only one answer.

The prospect of trying Nazi war criminals in Britain stirs feelings of great intensity. There are profound considerations of moral and constitutional principle to be weighed on both sides. Above all, the integrity of the British judicial system must not be compromised. It is self-defeating to judge and punish in the name of justice, if injustice has first to be perpetrated to make this possible.

The Bill which has been presented to Parliament is calculated to address one specific anomaly in the law: the absence of jurisdiction in the British courts over war crimes committed by those who were not then, but are now, British citizens. It must be said that if war criminals sought British nationality in order to evade justice, then a grievous mistake was made in granting it to them.

The Bill is intended to make plain that Britain is no safe haven for such fugitives by bringing them to account now, notwithstanding the fact that they were not subject to British law at the time. It is for all that a flawed Bill. If the mistake must be corrected, it should be done in some other way.

A foreign citizen who murders another foreign citizen on foreign soil cannot subsequently be tried in Britain for it, however atrocious the circumstances. Otherwise British justice would be claiming jurisdiction over the whole of mankind. Parliament is right to have an intense distaste for retrospective legislation, and to allow it only in the most exceptional circumstances. Those special circumstances must arise from the nature of the legal difficulty, not because of the gravity of the alleged offences.

Yet that is essentially the argument of those who favour this change in the law. They say

that the circumstances were extraordinary precisely because of the scale of the crime and its hideous context. That in their view justifies a departure from a principle which has hitherto been regarded as without exception. The principle is that Parliament should not legislate to turn an act committed in the past, which was not at the time a crime in British law, into a criminal act after the event.

It must not be assumed, at this stage, that any of those suspected of Nazi war crimes who sought and were granted British nationality are guilty. All that can be said at this stage is that a body of *prima facie* evidence exists. If such cases are to be tried before a British court, however, the details of this appalling episode in human affairs will have to be dissected for the benefit of a jury according to the highest standards of proof and fairness, against a fortissimo of publicity.

If convicted, a handful of elderly men would end their days in a British prison — and there would be little sympathy for them. But the magnitude of the crimes alleged are out of all proportion to such a penalty, even at its worst. A few years' deprivation of liberty in the relatively humane conditions of a British jail is almost derisory as a response to what is alleged.

At this distance of time, whatever a jury's verdict, some lingering doubt would always have to exist as to mistaken identity, and as to whether the accused had a fair chance to present a full defence and call all their witnesses. Old men forget. A trial could not be fair if it became no more than a test of fading memories.

In another sense, of course, the memory of those events must never be allowed to fade. One of the reasons put forward for prosecuting alleged war criminals now is the benefit that would come from refreshing the public memory of those fearful times. But that is a political and educational objective, not a judicial one. Even if the criminal cases are abandoned, there can never be absolution for the crimes themselves.

A BLACK AND WHITE CASE

The time has come for the *perestroika* initiated by President de Klerk in South Africa to spread north across the Limpopo. South Africa is rapidly becoming like the proverbial island, a patch of land entirely surrounded by advice. The US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, is making the first visit to Pretoria by an American of his seniority since the 1970s. The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, is in town. His Soviet counterpart is also perambulating the region. The Namibian independence celebrations are bringing a diplomatic parade through this hitherto untouchable land.

All these high-level visits have been sourly received by Nelson Mandela, the ANC and by many of the frontline state leaders who fear that what they call "pressure" may be taken off Pretoria as a result. At its meeting in Lusaka yesterday the Organization of African Unity was pondering advice from the ANC to step up the pressure, against Western advice to reach some more pragmatic accommodation with the white government to the south.

Officially, the OAU declines to have any dealings with South Africa until apartheid is completely abolished. As always in Africa there is distance between rhetoric and reality. The rhetoric maintains that South Africa is isolated and that no nations are more solid in their support for sanctions than the frontline states. The reality is different. Zimbabwe, under the sternly Marxist Mr Mugabe, is South Africa's second largest African trading partner. South Africa now trades with every state in the continent, and last year the volume of that trade increased by some 40 per cent.

These mostly unofficial economic links are desperately needed. The recent study published by the World Bank, "From Crisis to Sustainable Growth", portrays a region, outside South Africa, that is one of the world's most economically wretched. Agricultural growth is weak, industrial output is declining, export performance is poor. The potential for

growth is there, in the continent's vast resources of land, workforce and mineral reserves. But that potential is unexploited as long as the frontline states regard themselves as the last custodians of eastern European traditions of economic management. In other words, the trouble is politics.

Some members of the OAU — notably in francophone Africa — know well enough that South Africa is today what it has long been, the economic superpower of the sub-continent. Its contribution to any revival in the region is simply crucial. But that contribution requires two things. First, South Africa needs to be able to accumulate investment and attract foreign trade. If ANC pressure compels the Pretoria Government to move into a headlong redistribution of wealth for political ends, stagnation beckons.

In some of its pronouncements, the ANC and Mr Mandela appear dimly to understand this. In others, such as those made since Mr Mandela's release, the message is less clear. An ANC-led South Africa will need capitalism every bit as much as a white-led one, but is most unlikely to get it.

The second requirement is that the frontline states reach a more public *mores vivendi* with the republic than their *modus vivendi* can, as yet, accept. Those that refuse to promote barter and aid deals with Pretoria cut off their noses to spite their faces. They cheat their populations of prosperity, drive their workers to seek jobs in South Africa and, eventually, destabilize their own one-party regimes by the resultant poverty.

Mr Mandela, the most remarkable leader to emerge on the public stage in southern Africa for decades, recently told his warring supporters in Natal to throw their weapons into the sea. He might usefully tell his allies to the north to do the same to their quotas, plans, sanctions laws and rotten bureaucracies. Ominously, Natal has yet to respond to his pleas.

SUBLIME LOOT

It is unlikely that the thieves who plundered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston at the weekend ever stopped to ask themselves what they were doing. To them, it was mere merchandise.

How, though, did their understanding of the crime they were committing differ from that of the society around them? Not even the penal code, under which the culprits will doubtless be punished in due course, accords a special weight to thefts of works of art, as opposed to objects of equal value which may be reproduced.

The commercial value of art is subjective, variable and ultimately dependent on a scarcity defined by demand. In less unproductive times, such market value would be of the utmost insignificance, by comparison with the objective characteristics which confer merit upon a picture or a sculpture. Vermeer's "The Concert" would hardly have been worth stealing a century ago, although it was no less rare and no less magnificent than it is today, because there was no demand for Vermeer.

The art world is populated by a dwindling minority of genuine connoisseurs and an army of others who make a little knowledge go a long way. The exhibition "Fake? — The Art of Deception", which opened recently at the British Museum, is an eloquent catalogue of the incompetence of countless curators, critics, auctioneers and others who are paid to distinguish original works from imitations.

Admittedly, the discovery of forgeries is very difficult; to separate a master's work from that of his contemporaries still more so. The temptation for experts to err on the side of commercial advantage is no doubt powerful, and sometimes irresistible. In an art market bloated with the profits of financial institu-

tions guided by nothing more than a desire to maximize returns on investment, corruption is likely to flourish, while opportunities multiply for thieves to dispose of their loot.

There may, however, be less ignoble motives for stealing works of art. In 1911 an Italian student, Vincenzo Perugia, stole the "Mona Lisa". He believed passionately that the works of the great Leonardo, whose name he adopted, should be returned to Italy.

The Paris police briefly arrested Apollinaire, and even Picasso was interrogated. Having consulted a shop near Victoria Station about transport to Florence, Perugia turned up at the Uffizi more than a year later to present the picture to its incredulous director. At his trial in 1914, spectators cheered when he was given the minimum sentence of a year.

What if the "Mona Lisa" had remained at the bottom of Perugia's trunk to this day? The (inaccurate) news that the Communards had set the Louvre ablaze in 1871 caused the great historian Burckhardt to rush to his friend, the philosopher Nietzsche, for consolation. The image of these two lonely figures — speechless with grief at a loss which they felt to be personal, regardless of the museum or country in whose custodianship the works had perished — is a powerful one. Paintings can command far greater prices today; it is doubtful whether their loss arouses such authentic pathos.

It is an accidental quality of the sublime in art that it is bought and sold, often for fabulous sums, by individual or corporate collectors and museums. This sometimes interesting, more often tiresome detail has come to eclipse the aesthetic essence of the works themselves. In the case of stolen pictures which simply vanish, the eclipse is almost total.

Tighter controls on false papers

From Mr Philip Redfern
Sir, The steps that the Government proposes to take to deal with bogus marriages and immigration fraud were described (March 12) by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health. Those steps will help. A more thoroughgoing reform of the registration service would do even more, as well as helping to tackle the many other problems of fraud and denial of citizens' rights (my letter, March 5).

There is a range of ways to organise population records, as practice in Western Europe and North America shows. At the most disciplined and demanding end of the spectrum is a full population register that includes current addresses *plus* identity cards, as in Belgium. Mr Freeman might remind himself that 111 MPs from his own party put their names to this kind of system when they voted for Mr Tony Fawcett's motion of June 21, 1988, to bring in a Bill to introduce a British identity card.

A full population register without issuing ID cards to everyone is less demanding but probably almost as effective; this is the practice in the Scandinavian countries. Less demanding still is a population register that omits current addresses, as in France. Not very different from this are the Canadian and United States registers of people who have applied for social security numbers; these registers cover virtually the whole adult population and are widely used to combat fraud. Then, at the most primitive and disorganised end of the spectrum, are countries without any multi-purpose register of people — the UK and Ireland.

I am not advocating any particular solution, though I doubt whether there is good case for ID cards. The Registrar General should make a full study of all the options, taking into account privacy, acceptability, and financial implications. We should not dismiss options out of hand, as Mr Freeman seems to do. That is just burying our heads in the sand and a negation of an informed and open society.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP REDFERN (Deputy Director, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1970-82), 17 Fulwith Close, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. March 13.

Finding a 'fifth man'

From Mr W. J. West
Sir, In the course of researching a book on Roger Hollis and his connections with GRU (Russian military intelligence) — not KGB (Russia's M15) — shortly to be published in New York as *Spymaster: The Betrayal of M15*, I spoke with Dr Christopher Andrew in his capacity of editor of the scholarly journal, *Intelligence and National Security*. After he kindly offered to consider any important new material on Hollis or the security services that I might uncover, we discussed a number of points in my book.

I was deeply concerned, therefore, to learn (report, March 6) that Dr Andrew was working closely with a former member of the security services on a book that had much common ground with my own.

Does the fact that I have discussed such matters with a person possibly connected with the security services bring my book within the ambit of the Official Secrets Act? And if *Spymaster* can only be published in New York, whence comes the apparent immunity of the Gordievsky/Andrew book?

It is one thing for books to be banned, and worrying enough. It is a stage further for "official" books to be set up in their place. Yours sincerely,
W. J. WEST,
36 Fairpark Road,
Exeter, Devon.
March 14.

Sneak preview

From Mr Robert Clough
Sir, Tony Benn is not alone among political celebrities to have read his obituary in advance of the need to use it (Diary, March 14).

Lord Lawson ("Jack"), a former war minister in the Labour Government, with an hour to spare in Newcastle before boarding the night sleeper to London, would occasionally call in at *The Journal* office near by to chat with me, the editor.

In the library his eye fell upon his prepared biography. He read it with deliberation and, chucking, remarked, "That's excellent, I'll die happy now".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CLOUGH,
53 Beatty Avenue,
North Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
March 14.

Mandela at Wembley

From Mr Tony Hollingsworth
Sir, Mr Kevin Miller (March 16) asks why Nelson Mandela is "the only resident South African" to appear at the Wembley concert on Easter Monday. First, I would point out that "concert" is too narrow a term to describe the event which has been organised with the twin purpose of celebrating Mr Mandela's release and focusing the world's attention on the continued need to dismantle the abhorrent system of apartheid. In order for this message to be

Ethical issues in the case of Bazofo

From Dr Allen A. Bartholomew
Sir, Ian Mather (report, March 16) suggests that Faraz Bazofo is not acting as a spy but states that Bazofo visited the prohibited area after twice being refused permission, whilst Christopher Walker notes that the nurse, Mrs Daphne Parish, drove Bazofo to the restricted military zone disguised as an Indian doctor. Is this standard journalistic behaviour?

To this must be added, when we attempt to assess the facts, that Bazofo's conviction in 1981 which led to his prison sentence would appear to have had as a background, threatening behaviour with a fake bomb, behaviour that was most likely calculated and premeditated rather than impulsive; further offences involving cheque frauds were taken into consideration.

Finally, one notes that Bazofo attempted to become a "police informer", but that his services were not used as it was decided that his information was unreliable.

I do not support capital punishment for any type of behaviour, including terrorist killings. What I am concerned about is the seeming intent to build up the deceased man as a means of condemning an autocratically brutal regime.

Yours etc,
ALLEN A. BARTHOLOMEW,
Shirley Lodge,
51 Wickham Road, Shirley,
Croydon, Surrey.
March 16.

From Mr C. A. Roberts
Sir, I hold no candle for the Iraqi Government, however, I do believe that they are not the real culprits for the demise of Mr Bazofo. The blame surely lies with a British press, on this occasion typified by *The Observer*, who appear to believe that being a journalist elevates a person above both his fellow citizens and, in this case, other governments.

Allowed for years to treat Western governments with contempt, editors seem unable to understand why the sending of an Iranian citizen to pry (one man's) investigative journalism is another man's spying into the affairs at a secret military base, run by a

nation with whom Iran has, until recently conducted a prolonged and bloody war, could be misconstrued as spying.

How many more journalists must die before editors realise that they cannot conduct all of their overseas reporting as though they were in a liberal Western democracy?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN A. ROBERTS,
Tempe Farm, Main Street,
Swepestone, Leicestershire.

From Mr Myles Glover
Sir, I fear that the Government and the Foreign Office have been non-suited over their handling of the sad case of Faraz Bazofo. They have tried, understandably but unsuccessfully, to accommodate their duty to protect a British subject as best they might to the requirement of preserving national dignity.

In trying to achieve both ends they have achieved neither, and possibly — although by no means certainly — sacrificed the life of a British subject in the process.

It is impossible to quarrel with the Iraqi comment that those who seek clemency should say "please" rather than threaten, a proposition similar to that of English law that he who seeks equity should do so with clean hands.

We might have achieved clemency had we genuinely sought it, rather than challenged, to a greater or less extent overtly, the judgement giving rise to the sentence which clemency could mitigate.

Yours faithfully,
MYLES GLOVER,
As from: Buckhall Farm,
Bull Lane,
Bethersden, nr. Ashford, Kent.

From Miss H. M. Sands
Sir, In your leader today (March 16) you claim that it no longer matters whether Mrs Thatcher, Mr Kaufman, or others reacted appropriately to the death sentence on Faraz Bazofo. Surely, Sir, it matters enormously if we are to be rightly prepared for — God forbid — any subsequent similar event.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. SANDS,
16 Derwent Drive,
Orpington, Kent.

Poll tax points

From Mr M. D. Berkson
Sir, If one wishes to pay poll tax in monthly instalments, East Hertfordshire District Council "will not be issuing standing order forms", but have now written twice asking me to complete a variable direct-debit instruction. Furthermore, where there is more than one charge-payer in a household, a joint payment covering all charge-payers can be made only by direct debit and by no other method. The council allege that if we set up our own standing orders this must be done as two separate payments.

Like many married couples, my wife and I operate a joint bank account. I do not understand how or why we are expected to make two separate payments from a single account. This apparent separation is particularly odd since husband and wife are jointly and severally liable for each other's poll tax.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. BERKSON,
55 Maze Green Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

From Viscount Mountgarret
Sir, The Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) have just announced an overall increase in the basic agricultural wage of £10 per week. In view of the level of poll tax that is liable to be paid by an average agricultural family of some £700 a year, this award is misery in the extreme. For many years employers in the industry, be they landowners or farmers, have, to a greater or lesser extent, set their own levels of remuneration to their employees in line with the awards made by the AWB.

A worker on the basic agricultural wage will take home from next June, after tax, an average of £5,760 per annum. Out of this he may have to find £700 per annum for poll tax. Before poll tax, and

before the wage award, a worker with an average tax liability would have a take-home pay per annum of approximately £5,460.

True, some, and indeed many, employers may well choose to increase their employees' remuneration arbitrarily, but there will be no guidelines. Some will pay none; some will pay some, and some will pay all, which will lead to obvious and possible strained relations between employers and employees.

The only way that this situation can be remedied — and remedied it must be — is that either the wage award must be at least doubled, or, better still, the rate at which farm workers pay their poll tax levied on the basis of ability to pay and directly related to the level of income tax they pay.

Yours faithfully,
MOUNTGARRET,
Stainley House, South Stainley,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Dave Nellist, MP for Coventry South East (Labour)
Sir, In Matthew Parris's political sketch (March 16) he states: "Mr Nellist has now resigned the Labour whip".

I want to make it crystal clear that that is not the case. Despite calls in recent days from several Tory Cabinet ministers, in numerous press releases, for the whip to be withdrawn from me for my opposition to the poll tax and my determination to stand shoulder to shoulder with those millions of families unable to pay, I have no intention of resigning — nor has any officer of the Parliamentary Labour Party asked me to do so.

Mr Parris is entitled to his opinions, and to his idiosyncratic observations — but at least he should try to base them on the truth. Yours etc,
DAVE NELLIST,
House of Commons.
March 16.

Westminster meters

From the Leader of Westminster City Council
Sir, Sir Clement Freud's column of March 12 "The phantom meter mercenaries", deserves posterity as a whinge *célèbre*.

It makes three points. First, that he is ashamed of Westminster's low community charge, and would prefer to pay more. He thinks it is unfair that he should be paying so little. Never once, however, does he show any concern for his less well-off neighbours in the City of Westminster, who are universally thankful not to live in Camden (£535), Islington (£498), or Brent (£498).

Next, after previously complaining about traffic and congestion in London, he berates the council for enforcing parking regulations. This is a good exam-

ple of having one's whinge and whining out on it. If we do not enforce the parking regulations, Sir Clement would complain; if we do enforce the parking regulations, Sir Clement complains.

Finally, your columnist offers a solution to the problems of parking shortages in central London. Rather than share them around, or create more spaces, or enforce any regulations, he advocates raising the price of parking permissions, again penalising the less well-off.

How can we have a fair society when the likes of Sir Clement Freud have changed the quality of life to the better. Nevertheless, as a caring hostess, I always provide a few blankets (one of them covered by a quilt cover) in a transparent plastic bag at arm's reach.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY PORTER, Leader,
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.
March 15.

performing is not yet finalised and new artists are being approached every day. However, there will be a careful balance of the more widely known international artists and artists from South Africa to ensure that the programme is seen in as many countries as possible. Only in that way can we guarantee that Mr Mandela's message reaches a genuinely world-wide audience.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HOLLINGSWORTH
(Managing Director),
Tribute Productions,
144 Liverpool Road, N1.
March 16.

Training young opera singers

From the Chairman of National Opera Studio

Sir, In her recent article (March 14) about young opera singers Hilary Finch rightly stresses the importance of training. But her picture of a few random small-scale initiatives, operating in isolation, seems a little over-gloomy.

I can only speak for the National Opera Studio (NOS). We may be small, but we were planned to be so, in order to fulfil our special purpose. This has always been to give training to performance to a limited number — we hope the cream — of opera graduates from the colleges of music and of young singers who already have some experience in the profession.

As for isolation, our board consists of the heads of the country's leading opera companies and the size of our intake — a dozen or so a year — seems to them, and to us, to be about right. That so many of them have, in our 12 years' existence, been immediately placed and achieved success with those companies gives us confidence. To take only those mentioned by Miss Finch as nurtured by the Royal Opera House and English National Opera — Jean Rigby, Cathryn Pope, Michael Druett, Judith Howarth, Gillian Webster and Anthony Michaels-Moore — all but two were NOS trainees.

Our involvement with the opera house has in fact steadily grown — in the initial selection, in visits of the whole course to work for a period with a company, in provision of tutors, and in secondments to us of singers from a company. (The reverse process has proved impractical).

Perhaps each company should have its own school, but could they at present afford this? This co-operation arrangement has worked and done so economically. Our Arts Council grant is less than that to our predecessor, the London Opera Centre, 12 years ago.

We are grateful to Miss Finch for drawing attention to the vital importance of opera training. Yours faithfully,
HUGH WILLATT, Chairman,
National Opera Studio,
Morley College,
61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1
March 16.

From Sir Thomas Armstrong
Sir, Hilary Finch's article dealing with some problems in the training of singers for opera may remind us of the invaluable work done in this field by the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, especially during the years when Norman Tucker and James Robertson were active there.

The records make it clear that very many of those British singers who have made fine careers in opera were greatly helped by their apprenticeships in those institutions, and that the loss of such training-grounds was a serious one. Those who at the time opposed the move of the ENO to the Coliseum foresaw what the consequences would be, and subsequent events have shown that their fears were not unjustified.

It is to be hoped that those who are now planning for the future of opera in Britain will have these past experiences in mind, and will aim at a revival of the ideals which inspired many men and women who worked at that time devotedly and with such fine results for English opera.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS ARMSTRONG,
1 East Street,
Olney, Buckinghamshire.
March 15.

Weather omen

From Mr Frank Paton
Sir, In reporting the waywardness of the recent weather (March 19) you infer that a hot March precedes an indifferent summer.

In this part of England we say: "Oak before ash — splash; ash before oak — soak".

Last year the oaks were in full leaf before the ash started to leaf. This year the ash is ahead of the still tight oak buds.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PATON,
Snockcombe House,
Emmorn,
Bridgewater,
Somerset.
March 19.

Sleeping easy

From Mrs K. G. Sternberg
Sir, Contrary to Mr D. A. Chance's opinion (March 17), the "spread" of duvets has changed the quality of life to the better. Nevertheless, as a caring hostess, I always provide a few blankets (one of them covered by a quilt cover) in a transparent plastic bag at arm's reach.

Yours faithfully,
KLARA STERNBERG,
26 Park Way, NW11.

First-class post

From Mrs M. S. McIntyre
Sir, Today I received a postcard from my brother, on holiday in Courchevel, addressed thus: "Second road on the right past Canonmills Clock near botanical gardens Edinburgh (opposite Wariston Crescent)". It was posted in Courchevel on March 12.

Yours sincerely,
MARIAN MCINTYRE,
8 Eildon Street, Edinburgh.
March 14.

THE ARTS

Terry Hands, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, argues that the subsidized theatre's prime duty is to new writers

First-timers come first

When Shakespeare and his contemporaries reformed the English language in the 17th century they instigated the growth of a dramatic literature unmatched in scope and richness. While the Germans got on with their music and the Italians their painting, the British wrote poetry and plays. Any contemporary subsidized company could build its entire repertoire for a decade out of home-grown classics and still leave hundreds of plays untouched.

On the whole that is what most companies do, and they accept Press castigation for parochialism with a good grace. It is refreshing, therefore, to be criticized by Benedict Nightingale (Arts Page, March 6) for not being parochial enough.

He is right to eulogize the classics of modern drama that had their first performance in the subsidized theatre, but is he right to task the National Theatre and the RSC for not reviving more of them in the last 30 years? Some were not even written that long ago.

If we take the last 10 years as a more reasonable measure, then revivals have not been infrequent. The RSC, for instance, has revived 10 modern classics in that time including *The Devils* and *Penny for a Song* by John Whiting, *The Fool and Liar* by Edward Bond, and *The Party* by Trevor Griffiths. An average of one a year seems to me pretty reasonable. Should we be reviving *Good* by C.P. Taylor? We were still performing the original production in 1982. Should we already be reviving *Anybody's* while he still nourishes us with brilliant new plays year after year?

More important, if these classics are "certain to seize the mind and feelings as boldly as any

being written nowadays" — and I rather agree with Benedict Nightingale here — then is it not an opportunity for the commercial theatre "to see how seaworthy such vessels remain"?

Surely it is essential that the subsidized theatre should remain predominantly the seedbed of really contemporary writing — writing even more "bang beneath our educated noses" than the classics Benedict Nightingale so reasonably extols. If we take again the last 10 years, the record is exceptional. The RSC alone has produced over 70 new plays in that time. If you add the National Theatre and the Royal Court the number would probably more than double. Not all have been successful, but among them we can number David Edgar's remarkable *Maydays*, Nichols's *Poppy*, Barnes's *Red Noses*, Poliakoff's *Breaking The Silence* — all award-winners. Which is more exciting? To take an academic second look at *Lucretia*, or wait for what Wertenbaker will write next, or Nick Dear, Nicholas Wright, David Lan, or Peter Flannery?

These days, to produce new plays at all is a risk. They are not "cost effective" — rarely "profitable" — hardly "business-like". It is difficult to raise sponsorship for a play that questions the status quo or is by its very nature untied. For the public, the unique poetry of Howard Barker or the spare articulation of Edward Bond may require effort. The rewards are great but the commitment must be two-way. Even critics sometimes have difficulty with plays for which there is no previous category.

Yet new writing and new writers are the future of our theatre. They require more help, more patience, more generosity. The play you

see today may be part of a learning process, the next may be a hit. But the writer needs performance to progress, and we cannot always expect instant mass appeal. Nor should we. Which is why the Royal Court, for instance, needs a higher percentage subsidy than either the National Theatre or the RSC.

New plays sometimes outlive their own periods, but even that may not be an absolute criterion of success. They should speak immediately to their own time in the language of their own time. Benedict Nightingale aptly describes such plays as needing to embody "the anxiety, pain, frustration, challenge, comedy and occasionally even exhilarations of living in times that raise a million private and public questions and definitively answer none". That is indeed the role of the modern playwright; but it requires subsidy and thanks to subsidy we still have more living writers practising than any other European country, and plays second to none.

Subsidy levels, after five years of cuts in real terms, are now perilously low. As Richard Wilding said in his report, companies have reached "the point at which they can no longer put on programmes of the high international standard rightly expected of them". Nor, he might have added, the high national standard to which the public has grown accustomed. Unless this trend is reversed, plays like Hare's *National Theatre Racing Demon* or Flannery's *RSC Singer* would simply be too risky to mount.

I am all for cherishing the recent past, but not at the expense of the immediate future. If anybody is to be chastised for neglecting their duty it may be the subsidizing authorities rather than under-subsidized theatre companies.

Antony Sher, in the RSC production of *Singer* by Peter Flannery

Where are the wits?

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

A reader's postcard with a handsome view of Land's End (presumably sent to show me precisely where to jump off) accuses me of not spending enough of this column considering television comedy, to which the short answer is that I cannot find any. This is one of the most dire periods ever for television fun, with French, Saunders, Fry and Laurie all functioning below their best and the only genuine hilarity to be found in anguished ministers attempting to explain to *Parliament* the benefits of the poll tax.

What is surprising, though, is the number of interesting and excellent actors still prepared to plough through the rubbish being parcelled out to them by supposedly comic scriptwriters. The BBC has nearly shown up the witless of *Penelope Keith's* new female MP series on ITV, for instance, by the simple device of repeating *To the Manor Born*.

They themselves are, however, not a lot better off: the chronically underwritten *Don't Wait Up* (BBC 1, Sundays) is only ever saved by the brilliant casting of veterans from the last golden era of stylish British stage and screen comedy (Dinah Sheridan, Tony Britton), or actors who were brought up with a healthy respect for it (Simon Williams, Nigel Havers); while on Mondays the ubiquitous John Bird is with Hannah Gordon and Peter Egan doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a second series of *John's Account*, which opened last night.

An exchange such as "Where are my course notes?" "I thought all yours were terribly refined," does not inspire deep confidence in the writer, Don Webb, who occasionally adds afterthoughts such as "This conversation seems to be disappearing into nowhere," as though to alert us to the difficulties and dangers of being a joke-provider to the Corporation.

On Channel 4, although the TV *Times's* billing was extremely careful not to explain the fact, *Cutting Edge* last night departed from its series of first-run documentaries to screen a revised version of an Oscar-nominated film, first seen on BBC 2 five years ago. Bob Connolly's account of the first Contact between a remote tribe in Papua New Guinea and Australian explorers, in 1930, richly deserved its revival. This was not least for the moment when the Papuans discovered they were not the sole creatures on earth, and that white men were therefore not necessarily their dead come back to life as ghosts.

Choosing not to make a drama out of a crisis

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Mill Fire
Riverside Studios

Half-way through Sally Nemeth's sensitive, intelligent but somewhat muted study of bereavement and grief, my mind drifted to an older play on the subject, D.H. Lawrence's *Widowing of Mrs Holroyd*.

At its climax a woman washes the body of her husband, killed in the local colliery. In life she distilled him, and was planning to go. His death transforms her feelings into a barely desirable blend of pain, regret, self-pity, recrimination, self-accusation and blissfulness.

It is one of the great moments of

modern theatre, a scene that leaves you feeling you have intruded on something appalling intimate and profound; and it would be highly unreasonable to expect Nemeth, promising young dramatist though she is, to match it. However, she has taken the opportunity to do so — or, rather, she has made a crucial choice which means it is impossible for her to create anything remotely as complex and dramatic.

Nemeth is American, her setting Alabama, her characters steelworkers and their wives. One couple seem to spend their leisure hours snuggled in bed, sleeping or making fairly seasonal love. Another is in disarray, with the husband apparently impotent and his wife drunkenly preparing to leave him. When the furnace explodes, with a roar that makes Riverside quake and judder, it is Clare Holman's happy Mariene

and not Rosalind March's troubled Sunny who ends up widowed.

Mariene's feelings are strong and not uninteresting. She comes to an anniversary service wearing an unsuitable red dress, she has erotic conversations with her dead husband, and she refuses the compensation offered by the steel company. In other words, she cannot come to terms with a loss made doubly difficult by a nurse's refusal to let her lie with Steven Hartley's badly burned Champ and watch him die.

It is a fine study of a sorrow too unambiguous to renounce. There is, for instance, a particularly touching scene in which white-coated nurses intone "we don't want to frighten you" and "we only want you to be prepared", while a stricken Holman reaches towards Hartley, stark naked on a trolley. Drama does not thrive on unambiguity.

Contradiction and conflict are what give life — and what, sadly, Nemeth offers somewhat sparingly.

That is not to dispute her virtues, which include subtle observation, deft dialogue, and structural skill. The action cuts from past to present, bedroom to factory, hospital to church, and from the main characters to a three-woman chorus of black-suited mourners. Helped by Brian Sturmer's crisp, unsentimental direction, and performances lacking little but consistent Southern accents, the author successfully shows us what it is to get an emergency call at 2am, what it means to find your bed permanently empty, and much else.

Yet somehow it is not quite enough. Nemeth is capable of emotional surgery more taxing. Next time perhaps she will cut deeper.

Sunny (Rosalind March, left) and Champ (Steven Hartley) in *Mill Fire*

Visual provocation in store

In a disused Peak Frean pudding warehouse, situated in a sprawling collection of empty factories just south of Tower Bridge, bizarre preparations are in progress. Eight of Britain's most talented young artists have turned their backs, at least for a while, on the conventional opportunities offered by the plush West End galleries. Instead, they have been working round the clock for the past two months, preparing this vast, 7,500-sq ft area — more like an aircraft hangar than a prospective art gallery — for *Modern Medicine*, a contemporary art show.

News of *Modern Medicine* has been greeted with considerable interest in the art world. Norman Rosenthal, head of exhibitions at the Royal Academy, considers it to be an important landmark: "What we are seeing here is a new generation of young, talented artists whose work will have a lasting significance. I think these people represent one of the most exciting developments in British art since the Lisson crowd got going."

It remains to be seen whether they become as important as the group of artists — Richard Deacon, Richard Long, Tony Cragg — discovered in the Sixties by Nicholas Logsdail, who still runs the Lisson Gallery. Septics anticipate no more than the 15 minutes of fame prescribed by the late Andy Warhol, whose influence is

Shunning ordinary venues, eight young artists have taken over an old factory to mount their own exhibition.

John Stock reports

evident in much of their work. But one significant factor is that seven of the artists in *Modern Medicine* studied at Goldsmiths' Art School, currently riding the crest of a wave. Inspired teaching, combined with a highly professional approach to marketing students' work, has created something of a myth about the place. Despite criticisms of "yuppie art", an increasing number of its graduates is being represented by London's leading dealers.

Goldsmiths' popularity is still rising, and with it the pressures on a number of its graduates to sign up with West End galleries. The decision to stage *Modern Medicine* in Bermondsey has been, in many ways, a reaction to those pressures. Carl Freedman, one of the organizers, explains: "Everybody here is very young. A lot of

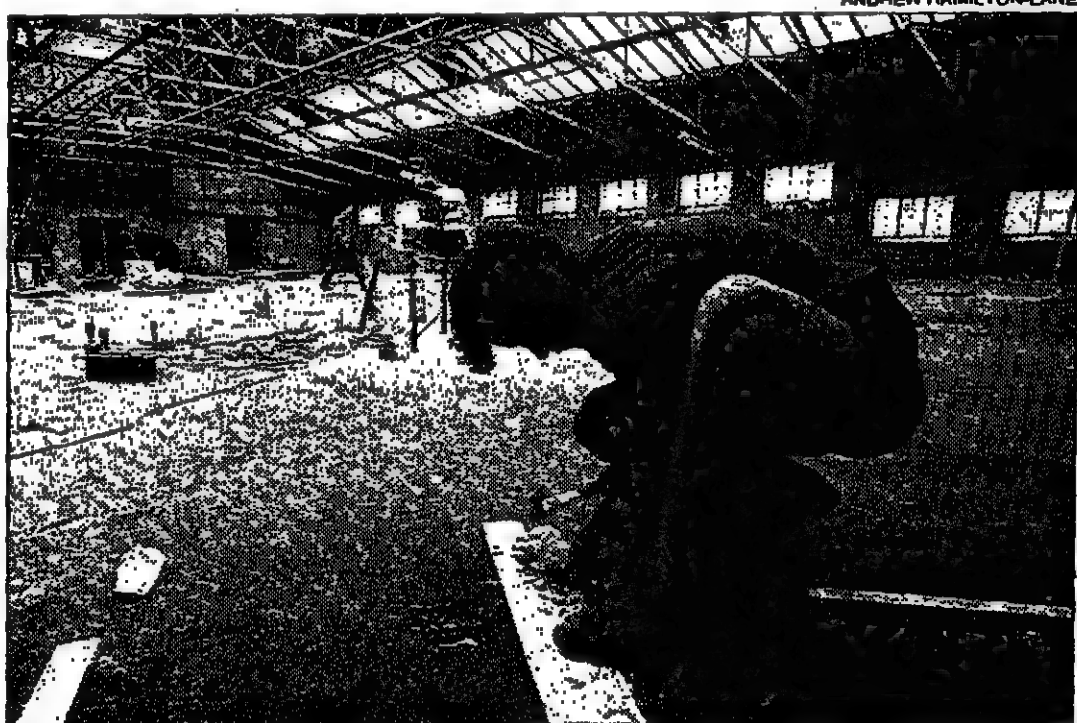
them feel that the pressure being put on them by galleries to sign often long-term contracts is too early; it's unnecessary."

After graduating from Goldsmiths' last year, Damien Hirst, 24, was approached by a West End gallery. More significantly, Charles Saatchi, owner of the largest collection of contemporary art in the world, has bought one of Hirst's works. Why has he decided to exhibit in Bermondsey?

"At this point, I need to be as fluid as possible; this is where you can still experiment. But I don't think it's a case of rather here than there. We are lucky to have this option; a lot of artists don't, and end up having to compromise."

Peek Frean moved away from the site last November, taking with them over one million Christmas puddings and leaving behind a number of huge, empty buildings. The sheer size of the venue has presented the artists with an opportunity to create works which could not be exhibited elsewhere. In one particularly extravagant piece, Mat Collishaw uses three projectors to throw a large (30 by 40 foot) image on to the far wall of an adjacent, equally spacious, but unused room.

Viewers will only be able to look at the image through a small, reinforced glass window in the door which links the two spaces. Microphones next to the un-

Hammering home a message? Angus Fairhurst, one of the eight artists preparing for *Modern Medicine*

sighted projectors will relay the hum of the machines back outside to two small loudspeakers placed either side of the window.

Modern Medicine will be a provocative show; anyone who likes their art in oils and on canvas is in for a shock. Put simply, the thinking behind these artists is that, were he alive today, Leonardo would probably be working with computer graphics and photocopyers. As Collishaw's

piece suggests, this is an exhibition concerned with modern mechanics of visual communication.

Not all the pieces are as taxing as Collishaw's. *Mostly Smiling*, by Angus Fairhurst, 23, consists of a series of eight separate images (each measuring seven by five feet) exploring the composition of magazine photos. Eight small pictures of faces have been carefully magnified thousands of times until they resemble nothing more

than a collection of coloured dots. Remarkably, it is still possible to "read" the faces, but whether they are actually smiling or not is unclear. The viewer is left with the unsettling knowledge that, these days, intense feelings can be communicated through a series of dots on a page.

Modern Medicine is at the Tower Bridge Business Square, Drummond Road, London, SE16, from March 31 to May 16. Further details from 01-558 3179.

Contrary of Mary

ROCK

Tony Patrick

Mary Coughlan
Dominion

It is infuriating when a singer as talented as Mary Coughlan, whose lived-in voice and directness of technique are allied to an emotional honesty, fails to communicate these qualities in full.

As the first of her London concerts last week, a combination of a top-heavy backing band, poor sound-mixing and an air of ill-preparedness about the singer herself meant that her best was only fitfully evident. It would be unfortunate if she ever became showbiz-glossy, but there is something equally false about being defiantly untethered and shambling in her presentation.

Coughlan is touring her excellent third album, *Uncertain Pleasures*, released, and the set featured almost all of its tracks, among which the two by Mark E. Smith, "Red Ribbon" and "Leaf a Tree", emerged relatively undamaged by the heavy-handed musicians and found her in good strong voice.

In a couple of songs, "Invisible" and "The Little Death", uncertain pitch and apparent confusion among the crowd on stage (anything up to a dozen at times) almost scuppered the enterprise altogether. "Man of the World", which has a teasingly interesting rhythm on record, was another victim of the occasion, its feet dragging and its jokey lyrics seeming merely vulgar.

Two guitarists and two backing singers looked and sounded like an indulgence; the former over-amplified and over-exposed, the latter under-amplified and given little to do. When the stage cleared a little and she sang with a minimum of backing, as on "I Can Dream, Can't I?" and "Leaf on a Tree" she made me remember why I had bought a ticket, and made the journey to the inopportune Dominion, rather than staying at home with the CD player.

Such moments were few in a disappointing evening. Opportunities were missed and between-song remarks were mumbled. Only towards the end of the show and in the encores, particularly a lark "These Boots Were Made For Walking", complete with formation dancing, did I begin to feel that the good humour apparent on stage was communicated to the audience.

Grotesque plot overstretches young company

MUSIC THEATRE

Stephen Pettitt

The Wondrous Tale of
Fandorlizz Sunnyfeet
Watermans Arts Centre

Since his appointment as principal of Trinity College of Music, the trumpet player, Philip Jones, has apparently been wielding his new broom with singular enthusiasm.

One innovation has been the creation, with the conductor Rhonda Kess, of a music theatre group called A Moveable Feast,

which has already tackled Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*.

This time, the work the group performed was Kurt Schwertsik's pantomimic opera *The Wondrous Tale of Fandorlizz Sunnyfeet*, composed in 1983 for Stuttgart Opera and performed here in David Drew's translation. The heroine of the piece, whose name graces the title, is a good witch, played with abundant humour (in more senses than one) by Debbie Gordon.

I ought to add that the villain, Harum (Nigel Hodder), is a sex-maniac and demented murderer,

and also that, in one scene, the witch acts as midwife at the labour of her daughter Miss Go-To-Wed (Giselle Minns), who happens to be a goat and who, naturally enough, falls in love with Harum.

There is also a hunchback, Hobbleruck Pompelero, who gives Mark Williams the chance to display his aptitude for comic paths. All this is staged as if improvised by a collection of customers at a Thirties speakeasy. You would have to be pretty high to dream up such a tale.

Schwertsik keeps things simple, tonal, and repetitive. His manner resembles Weill's theatre music,

though the dramatic absurdism of the piece sits more uncomfortably on the shoulders of this style than any Brechtian plot.

Perhaps it would be less jarring given a more assured and professional performance than these young artists can yet deliver. Too often there were insecure moments in the choruses and anxious sidelong glances at the conductor (placed on-stage with her small band), while the direction, also by Kess, was over-complex and the acting inept. Nevertheless, it was a good try, and certainly an initiative which should be encouraged.

section is tested with particular ferocity.

In the 1983 *Viola Concerto*, too, some of the instrumental effects, both for soloist and orchestra, are spectacularly weird. But the soloist always dominates, with a line (often left unaccompanied) that is charged with a scalding emotional quality.

The Russian viola player, Grigory Zhystin, played superbly — tackling the furious double-stoppings with the kind of manic energy they demanded — and the Cracow Philharmonic, despite its occasional rough edges, delivered the whole programme with great spirit.

CONCERT

Richard Morrison

Cracow PO/Penderecki
Barbican Hall

Krzysztof Penderecki's periodic British visits with the Cracow Philharmonic continue to provide useful updates on the Polish composer's remarkable changes of musical style.

About 10 years ago, he switched from being the world's most flamboyant purveyor of avant-

Neo-Romantic syrup

garde grotesqueries into a writer of syrupy scores that seemed just as flamboyantly to affirm 19th-century notions of melody and harmony. On Friday night we heard the Second Symphony, "Christmas", which represents this latter style at its most blatant.

Simplicity comes perilously close to a kind of grandiose banality here. Churning contrapuntal passages probably represent the troubled world, while sentimental dollops of "Silent Night" stand for the spirit of peace

and goodwill, creeping in where it gets the chance.

More recently, however, some of the old avant-garde colour has returned to Penderecki's neo-Romantic chic. The 1988 *Passacaglia* for Orchestra, though beginning unpromisingly (approximately three dozen grunts on a single bass note), soon develops into a hyper-active, virtuosic display piece, providing a showcase for each section in turn. There are long, angular solos for many wind principals, then the whole viola



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TELEVISION



A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark, textured garment, possibly a jacket or coat. The garment has a visible button and a strap detail. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and form of the fabric.

HOTLINE

The British designer Alistair Blair, who stepped into the spotlight at the Paris shows with the announcement of his appointment as the new designer of ready-to-wear at Balmain, is no newcomer to Paris fashion. On leaving St Martin's School of Art he worked in the studios at Givenchy and Dior before joining Karl Lagerfeld at Chloé, and moving with him when he set up the Lagerfeld house.

When Blair established his own business in London in 1986, one of his first designs made front-page news when it was worn by the Duchess of York for the first official pictures of her engagement. Blair also designed a collection for Jaeger, and a cashmere line for Murray Allan. Blair will start at Balmain on April 1, and his first Balmain Ivore collection will be shown in Paris in October.

"In London I was criticized that my look was too French," he says. "I have spent nine years working in Paris and only three and a half in London. I am thrilled to be back."

Times readers are Cerruti fans. Most of you who joined in our Cerruti/Selfridge competition correctly gave 1881 as the year the company was founded. The winners—who can choose a Cerruti suit, is Mr Richard Bowden of London SW8. The five runners-up are Mrs Michael Boxford of London SW10, Mrs B.F. Miller of Dorking, Pasqualina Paddev of London N4, Lloyd Richardson of Peterborough, and Rajan Tejura of Ewell, all of whom will receive a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men. All the winners also receive two tickets to see *The War of the Roses*, whose star, Michael Douglas, wears Cerruti clothes in the film.

Paris fashion is going underground. Ambitious plans are under way for a fashion centre to be built under the Tuileries gardens, opposite the Musée d'Orsay. The only visible part of the new *Maison de la Mode* will be the entrance and staircase leading to exhibition galleries and offices. The current arrangement of show tents pitched in a courtyard at the Louvre was always temporary. The unique plan for a permanent fashion centre establishes Paris as the capital of fashion. "It is time that we find a permanent place to present what we create," says Jean-Louis Dreyfus, president of the French Federation of Couturiers.

PVC and vinyl panels and capes, thick-ribbed tights, and

Claude Montana looked defiant as he strode down the catwalk at the end of a superb show at the weekend. Hurt by the harsh reception given to his first couture collection for Lanvin in January, he shrivelled his critics with a spot-on collection that lifted the relaxed, contemporary mood

into high fashion. His colours are the yellows and oranges of Warhol flower paintings. Sergeant Pepper tunics and suits are chain-frogged, but that's where he left behind the Sixties and took his collection into the Nineties. Neat scissored slashes in wool coats were held together with steel rivets for an angular, articulated movement. The series of white, thick wool coats banded in blocks of red and yellow at the hem were a nod to the inspiration of Cardin.

Yohji Yamamoto's geometric shapes and three-dimensional shapes and lines, stitched on to dresses, are also clearly inspired by Cardin, as were his cut-out pinaflore dresses of last season.

The skinny silhouette of a long-line jacket worn over a short, soft skirt or leggings was originated by Karl Lagerfeld. In his own-label line he simply reworks his asymmetric tweed jackets, and clasps a cocoon coat over a layered ribbed tunic skirt and tights, worn with above-the-knee boots. For evening, red or pink satin trapeze tunics are worn three-quarter length over short, pleated or draped, black georgette dresses.

Lagerfeld loves colour this season: the new Chanel jacket is in violet, red, or green speckled tweed, often with a bag to match. He cleverly uses quilting, the Chanel trademark, for leather and tweed jackets. The padded parka and quilted blouson look perfectly at home here with gilt buttons and black satin binding.

Fabrics with substance are brought back into fashion by the structured geometric line. Double jersey, thick flat wool and tweed, fake fur and velvet, are all mixed with metallic textured knits, lamé and brocade.

Gianfranco Ferré at Dior has relaxed into a sportier mood with leather sweaters and jackets worn over sleek ski pants. Valentino's favourite short skirts are often tied or pleats glimpsed under a tweed jacket. This season his embroidered sweaters are inspired by a collection of Etruscan vases in his house in Carri.

Gaultier took us to the faded plush of the old Lido on the Champs Elysées to show his remarkably controlled version of the contemporary look. Baby-doll smocks in lace and lame, Jacquard knitted bodysuits, perfectly cut, lined pinstriped jackets — he showed them all, layered one over another. But taken as individual pieces these, like the other sharply chiselled clothes shown in Paris, add up to the distinctive look of the new age.

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1

PREVIEW

TODAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

THEATRE

NEW IN LONDON

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: New season opens with transfer of Barry Kyle's production, coolly received at last year's Stratford.

Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-638 8861): Undergound: Barbican Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 7.50-10.30pm. Previews from Sat 7.10pm. Then in repertoire. Previews and Thurs mats: £5-15. After March 30: eves and Sat mats £5-18.50.

CANT PAY? WON'T PAY: Revolting housewives take over the supermarket. Patricia Brake and David Roper lead a revival of Dario Fo's anarchic farce.

Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311): Undergound: Hammersmith Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 7.50-10.30pm. Previews from Sat 7.10pm. Then in repertoire. Previews and Thurs mats: £5-15. After March 30: eves and Sat mats £5-18.50.

AN EVENING WITH PETER USTON: Anecdotes and mimicry from the man who has met everyone and can imitate most of them.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 9832): Undergound: Fidelity. Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then Tues-Sat 8pm, mat Sun 4pm, 2.15-5.10pm. Until April 29.

THE GAMBLER: Compulsive switch-back ride to disaster: black comedy with jazz. Last year's Bubble Theatre's award-winning start four weeks tour round the Fringe.

Watermaen Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (01-898 1176): British Rail: Kew Bridge. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then tomorrow, Wed, March 26-31, 8pm, 2.55-5.55. March 26 (Mon): 2 tickets for the price of one.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR: Tina Arns transposes Gogol from provincial Russia to the Raj: new tour of last year's ingenious production starts here.

Business Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Laverham Hill, SW11 (01-223 2223): British Rail: Clapham Junction. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tues-Sun, 8pm until April 1; Wed-Sun, 8pm until April 12, 2.55-5.10pm.

HOW STEEPLE SINGING WON THE P.A. CUP: Or how a stage version of J.L. Carr's enjoyable novel about village giant-killers came from Worcester to Leatherhead and into London. Very bleak.

Phoenix Theatre, Puddle Dock, EC4 (01-238 5558): Undergound: Blackfriars. Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Thurs 3pm and Sat 5pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

NEVER THE WINNER: Joss Ackland plays Clarence Darrow in latest version of the Leopold/Loeb "thriller" case. The play comes garlanded with awards from its 1986 Chicago production.

Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-638 4401): Undergound: Embankment. Previews from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens March 29, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Wed and Sat 5pm. Previews and mats £5-21.50. From March 29, eves £5-21.50.

SINGER: Antony Sher plays a Nazi-melancholic Jew clambering from a Nazi camp to vast wealth in modern Britain; a riveting performance in Peter Fenner's dark comedy.

The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (01-638 8861): Undergound: Barbican. Previews from Sat 7.10pm. Then in repertoire. Eves £12, mat £10.50.

CONTINUING

BUS STOP: Long wait for a journey to nowhere with Jerry Hall.

Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3688): Undergound: Fidelity. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-10.45pm, mat Fri and Sat 5-8pm, 2.55-5.10pm.



Reborn out of a rubbish tip

Eight years ago, two Oxford paprologists tracked down the fragment of a lost satyr play by Sophocles on a rubbish tip outside the ancient Egyptian town of Oxynchus. These plays were lustrous burlesques performed as a contrast after a group of tragedies in the Festivals, and only one other example has come down to us. Two years ago Tony Harrison, translator of *The Misanthrope* and *The Mysteries* for the National Theatre, incorporated the fragment in a play of his own, *The Tracerys of Oxynchus*, rehearsed it in the NT studio and directed it for one performance at Apollo's shrine in Delphi (as seen in our photograph, above). From Thursday his play starts previews at the Olivier in what some might call our closest equivalent to a

shrine of drama. The original *Ichnusae* (*The Tracerys*) tells how Apollo acquired his lyre and with it the means to enchant and dominate through song. Harrison cunningly uses this plot to convey the message of many of his poems, the power of language — Apollo ends up speaking grand RP (Received Pronunciation) — to lord it over rougher tongues, as spoken here by the Satyrs. Jack Shepherd and Barrie Rutter play the Oxford linguists caught up in the drama, and Brian Glover plays the infant Hermes. *The Tracerys of Oxynchus*, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Previews from Thursday, 7.15pm, opens March 27, 7pm. Then in repertoire. £5-£15.50.

Jeremy Kingston

THE CHERRY ORCHARD: Judi Dench and Ronald Pickup lead a strong cast in Sam Mendes's clear, almost jolly production. Last week.

Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych WC2 (01-638 6404): Undergound: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30-10pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, mat Sat 4-6.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

EXCHANGE: Martin Jarvis heads the cast in Michael Frayn's translation of long-running Moscow hit by Tikhonov. Fast-paced and heart-searching in modern Soviet Union.

Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-638 9887): Undergound: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45-9.55pm, Sat 8.15-10.25pm, mat Wed 5-6.10pm and Sat 5-7.10pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

JACKETS: Last week of Edward Bond's powerful, moving, angry play about society's crooked fabric, set in a riot-torn European city not unlike Leicester, where the play was premiered.

Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388): Undergound: Shepherd's Bush. Thurs 8pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

THE LIAR: Last week of Jonathan Miller's spirited production of the spiky Cornwell comedy. Nick Sampson takes over from Alex Jennings for the last performance.

Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-828 7816): Undergound: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 7.45-9.45pm, mat Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4-6pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

MISS SAIGON: Great musical, with Jonathan Pryce, thrillingly staged.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-836 8108): Undergound: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.30pm, mat Wed and Sat 3-6.45pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

NEW ANATOMIES: Revival of early Timberlake Wertenbaker play on the life of Isabelle Eberhardt, Victorian explorer and transvestite named (tonight, tomorrow). In repertoire with *The Dutch Courtesan* (Sat, Sun) and *The Diviner* (Thurs, Fri), a so-so Jacobean revival and a strained modern mid-West drama.

Man in the Moon Theatre, 392 King's Road, SW3 (01-361 2876): Undergound: Sloane Square. Then bus down the King's Road. Tues-Sun 8.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

THE PRICE: Welcome revival of Arthur Miller's fine play where two brothers discover their dead father's character and their own with Bob Peck, David

Colder and Alan MacNaughtan. Last week.

Young Vic Theatre, 65 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6883): Undergound: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BOLTON: *Necktie Gals!* Haydn Gwynne plays the seething title-role in Christopher Hampton's NT translation. *Necktie Gals!* (Fri 10.30pm, Sat 8.15pm, mat Sat 4.15pm). Preview tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat April 7, 2pm, 2.55-5.10pm. Until April 21.

BUXTON: *The Comedy of Errors*. Un-even English Stage Company production but lovely to look at and the comic errors succeed with every identical-twin. *Errors*. Opera House, Water Street (0208 72190). Today-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

CHICHESTER: *Of Mice and Men*. Cive Kneller and Joe Montana play Steinbeck's two farm workers whose odyssey ends in tragedy. *Of Mice and Men*. Regent Street (01243 67267). From Thurs, 7.45pm. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, 2.45-5.10pm. Until April 14.

CREWE: *The Miser's Tale*. Manchester's Royal Exchange Mobile Theatre

tour starts here — a first visit to this venue — with Phyllida Lloyd's fine production. *Shaw's The Miser's Tale*. Royal Exchange Mobile Theatre. Wed-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Fri 1.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm.

TELEVISION TOP 10

National top 10 programmes in the week ending 17th March 1990	
Rank	Programme
1	Neighbours (Mon 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
2	Neighbours (Tue 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
3	Neighbours (Wed 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
4	Neighbours (Thurs 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
5	Neighbours (Fri 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
6	Neighbours (Sat 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
7	Neighbours (Sun 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
8	Neighbours (Mon 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
9	Neighbours (Tue 12.30/12.30 18.50m)
10	Neighbours (Wed 12.30/12.30 18.50m)

Source: Broadcasters' Audience Research Board

CABARET

Carol Sarier

LONDON

INSULT THE COMEDY CIRCUIT: The Cabbage Patch, 57 London Road, Twickenham (01-751 4984). Wed-Fri: Doors 7.30pm, show 8pm, 2.55-5.10pm. Thurs: Doors 7.30pm, show 8.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm. This annual talent-spotting jamboree usually throws up a mixture of the die and the delight: past finalists have included The Two Marks, Hattie Hayridge and Keith Dover — comedy aficionados need look no further for the names of the future.

CITY LIMITS NEW VARIETY ACT OF THE YEAR SHOW: Hammersmith, 201 Main Street, E8 (01-885 2426). Thurs: Doors 7.30pm, show 8.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm. This annual talent-spotting jamboree usually throws up a mixture of the die and the delight: past finalists have included The Two Marks, Hattie Hayridge and Keith Dover — comedy aficionados need look no further for the names of the future.

BARBARA CABARET: The Bedford, Bedford Hill, SW12 (01-673 8904). Fri, Sat: Doors 7.30pm, show 8pm, 2.55-5.10pm. Thurs: Doors 7.30pm, show 8.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm. This annual talent-spotting jamboree usually throws up a mixture of the die and the delight: past finalists have included The Two Marks, Hattie Hayridge and Keith Dover — comedy aficionados need look no further for the names of the future.

CARTOON AT CLAPHAM: The Pough, 190-192 Clapham High Street, SW4 (01-738 8763). Fri, Sat: Doors 8.30pm, show 9pm, 2.55-5.10pm. Thurs: Doors 8.30pm, show 9pm, 2.55-5.10pm. This annual talent-spotting jamboree usually throws up a mixture of the die and the delight: past finalists have included The Two Marks, Hattie Hayridge and Keith Dover — comedy aficionados need look no further for the names of the future.

LAURELS LUNCHEONETTE: Laurels, Laurels House, Waterpark Park, Highgate Hill, N6 (01-548 6716). Sat: 12.30-2.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm. Thurs: 12.30-2.30pm, 2.55-5.10pm. This annual talent-spotting jamboree usually throws up a mixture of the die and the delight: past finalists have included The Two Marks, Hattie Hayridge and Keith Dover — comedy aficionados need look no further for the names of the future.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Ⓢ) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

ALWAYS (PG): Spielberg's plush but pointless remake of *A Guy Named Joe* with Richard Dreyfuss as a dead pilot returning to earth. Plaza (01-487 9999).

CELESTINE (15): Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Striking debut by director Ann Taylor. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148) Metro (01-487 0757) Odeon Kensington (01-602 6844/5) 6844/5.

CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH POLE (12): Imaginative Scottish version of Manfred Karge's play about unemployed youths finding new hope through fantasy. Blackie (01-752 2222).

WEDNESDAY AT BERNIE'S (12): Rough-and-ready black comedy about a cop trying to hide his boss's demise. Andrew McCarthy, Jonathan Shepman. Odeon: West End (01-630 5252) Kensington (01-602 6844/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).

ENCOUNTER AT RAVEN'S GATE (15): Muddled science fiction from young Australian film makers, with some decent visual effects. Odeon: Chelsea (01-636 0510) Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

CURRENT

THE FOURTH OF JULY (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Camden Palace (01-257 7324) Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772) Fulham Road (01-370 2836) Empire (01-487 9999) Gate (01-722 4043) Screen on the Green (01-226 3520) Whiteleys (01-732 3303).

CINEMA PARADISE (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema; a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Cannon Mayfair (01-465 8805).

DANCING THRU THE DARK (15): Why Russell's thin but boisterous comedy-musical set in a Liverpool dance hall. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5505) Odeon: Kensington (01-602 6844/5) Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905) Haymarket (01-638 1027) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

THE SUMMER OF AVIVA (PG): El Cohen's prize-winning film about a young girl leading up to the Holocaust. Phoenix (01-863 2233).

TROP BELLE POUR TOI (18): Gérard Depardieu toys between his wit and his violence. Shillington on the Green (01-226 3520) Empire (01-487 9999) Gate (01-722 4043) Screen on the Green (01-226 3520) Whiteleys (01-732 3303).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15): A perfect marriage self-destructs violently. Exhausting black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Odeon Leicester Square (01-630 8111).

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (18): Romantic comedy with a brittle touch. Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal. Cannon: Chelsea (01-352 5505) Phoenix (01-863 2233) Screen on the Green (01-226 3520) Empire (01-487 9999) Gate (01-722 4043) Screen on the Green (01-226 3520) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324) Warner (01-438 0781).

EVERYMAN (01-435 1826): Delirious Hollywood triple bill of Cornell Woolrich thrillers: *Phantom Lady*, *Deadline at Dawn*, *The Window*.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE (01-353 3635): *Andrei Kovalev's* penetrating tale of a musician's remembered, *Cold Days*; *Siegrid* — part one of Lang's majestic Nibelungen Saga.

IN REPERTORY

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2131

ACROSS

- 1 Cery Victor (5,6)
- 2 Wario (7)
- 3 Mistake (5)
- 4 Time due (1,1,1)
- 5 Accessible (4)
- 6 Brick oven (4)
- 7 Flight (6)
- 8 Resistance (4)
- 9 Fish landing pole (4)
- 10 El Caudillo (6)
- 11 Water, tiger, flower (4)
- 12 Eden carload (4)
- 13 7 down weapon (3)
- 14 Lone Ranger companion (5)
- 15 Fleet commander (7)
- 16 Bordenline (2,3,5)

DOWN

- 1 Shell (5)
- 2 Carbonaceous rock (4)
- 3 Boat punt (4)
- 4 Inspiration (4)
- 5 Bullfight (7)
- 6 Archer (11)
- 7 Climactic ending (5,6)
- 8 School duffer (6)
- 9 School duffer (6)
- 10 School duffer (6)
- 11 School duffer (6)
- 12 School duffer (6)
- 13 School duffer (6)
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- 16 School duffer (6)
- 17 School duffer (6)
- 18 School duffer (6)
- 19 School duffer (6)
- 20 School duffer (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 2130

ACROSS: 1 Trillion 5 Side

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Susan Thomson
and Gillian MaxeySondheim,
side by
side

TELEVISION

Peter Waymark

● Sunday in the Park With Stephen (BBC1, 10.30pm) is an *Omnibus* study of the reigning monarch of the American musical, Stephen Sondheim, focusing on the two contrasting events which have brought him to Britain. As the grandly titled Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University, he is shown teaching students about his craft. As the creator of *Sunday in the Park With George*, he awaits the show's British premiere at the National Theatre. Like the musical, which follows the painter Scurat as he constructs one of his masterpieces, Bob Portway's film is an essay on the process of artistic creation.



Stephen Sondheim: reigning monarch of the American musical (BBC1, 10.30pm)

● The strength of *Stalin* (ITV, 10.35pm), which this week covers the terror of the 1930s, continues to be its interview material and previously unseen archive film. The broad lines of the story — the famine, the labour camps, the relentless drive towards industrialization — are well known. But the documentary makes a new discovery: the story of the three winners of the Holiday 90 competition will be shown. Kathy Taylor discovers more than fords and fish in Norway, six youngsters travel to the Philippines to compete in this year's Young Travel Writers' Competition, and Gillian Reynolds looks for a cheap holiday in Greenwich. Presented by Anne Gregg and Eamonn Holmes (Ceefax).

● Putting the case in *Open Space* (BBC2, 9.50pm) for a national dog registration scheme, an RSPCA film first pulls at the heart strings — showing unwanted stray dogs being put down and sent to the incinerator — and then rams the point home with cogent argument. The number of strays in Britain has doubled in 10 years and the RSPCA is having to destroy 1,000 a day. If dogs had to be registered, it claims, owners would be forced to be more responsible. The Government says registration would be too bureaucratic and expensive. But most European countries have it.

● Concluding its survey of British teenagers *Almost Grown* (BBC2, 9.50pm) takes up the theme of protest — against the bomb, racism, sexism, the Vietnam War and environmental pollution. A kaleidoscope of personal memories, film and music presented without commentary, the effect is more impressionistic than analytical. But the material is often fascinating and includes a priceless patronizing clip on "woman power" from the *Look At Life* series.

BBC

6.00 Ceefax

6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Jill Dando and Nicholas Witchell. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports summaries, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Callan reviews the morning newspapers. 6.55 Regional News and weather

9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Jayne Irving. Viewers comment on yesterday's television. To contribute ring 061 614 0424

9.20 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion

10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r)

10.25 *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* at the Playground Stop 10.30

10.50 *News and weather* followed by *Five to Eleven*, Nicola Pagett with a reading

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Jayne Irving. Viewers follow up callers' comments

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series presented by Judith Spath and Andy Craig 12.55 Regional news and weather

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. There is a dramatic change in Helen's condition; and there is a surprise for Jane when Mark takes her for a romantic picnic lunch (Ceefax)

1.50 *Going for Gold*. European quiz show hosted by Henry Kelly.

2.15 *Film: Guilty Conscience* (1985) starring Anthony Hopkins. Blythe Danner and Susan Sarandon. A lawyer plotting the murder of his wife is unaware that there are plans for his own death. Directed by David Greene. (Ceefax)

3.50 *Reder and Reder* (r) 4.00 *Hokey Toke* (r) 4.15 *What's Your Story?* with Sylvester McCoy

4.30 *Bananas* (r) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show*. Today's star is Suzzie the chimp. Terry Nukkins and Chris Packham discuss the difference between monkeys and apes and there is the opportunity to meet an ant-hill (Ceefax)

5.00 *Newsround* 5.05 *Granny* (r) 5.20 *What's Your Story?* with Sylvester McCoy

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax)

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anne Ford. Weather

6.30 *Regional News* Magazines

7.00 *Holiday 90*. The names of the three winners of the Holiday 90 competition will be shown. Kathy Taylor discovers more than fords and fish in Norway, six youngsters travel to the Philippines to compete in this year's Young Travel Writers' Competition, and Gillian Reynolds looks for a cheap holiday in Greenwich. Presented by Anne Gregg and Eamonn Holmes (Ceefax)

7.30 *EastEnders*. Dot is unaware that Mo's new lodger is Nick; Michelle has some sound advice for Pauline and Arthur; and Peter makes a special offer to Jane (Ceefax)

8.00 *To the Manor Born*. Audrey discovers that Richard Devereux was actually born Bedrich Polakowski. Starring Penelope Keith and Richard Bowles (Ceefax)

8.30 *A Question of Sport*. Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are joined by Walter Swinburn, Kay Morley, John Barnes and David Sole. David Coleman is the questionmaster. (Ceefax)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather.

9.30 *Budget 1990*. A statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Major

9.40 *Making Out*. Cuselle attempts to raise Chinky's bid, and Pauline suggests to Jill that Frankie is having an affair with his secretary (Ceefax)

10.30 *Omnibus: Sunday in the Park With Stephen* (see Choice)

11.20 *Film 90* with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *Tango and Cash*, starring Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell, and Steven Spielberg's first love story *Always*, starring Richard Dreyfuss. Plus a special location report from Glasgow where *The Big Man*, directed by David Leland, is set

11.50 *See Heart Give Mason and Maureen Denmark* with a review of today's Budget, with emphasis on the benefits and taxes which will affect those with hearing difficulties

12.00 *News*

6.30 *Open University* (PM only)

6.55 *Weather and News* Headlines

7.00 *Morning Concert*: Holst (St Paul's Suite); RPO under Malcolm Sargent; Chopin (Two Waltzes); Op 69; Debussy (Ashkenazy); Bellini (Obbo Concerto); Peterborough String Orchestra, with Nicholas Baker (Conductor)

7.30 *News*

7.35 *Morning Concert* (cont): Rossini (Overture), The Barber of Seville; National PO under Chailly; Gosssec (Tambourin); Michalek; Petri, recorder; Hanne Petri, harpsichord; David Petri, cello; Mozart (Piano Concerto in B flat, K 450; Liszt Op. 2, with David Rink, piano; Britten (Simple Symphony); ECO under the composer

8.30 *News*

8.35 *Composers of the Week*: Scandinavian Season. Stenhammar (Two Sentimental Romances for violin and orchestra, Op 28; Sentimental RSO under Sig Westerberg, with Arve Tellefsen, violin; The Girl Returned from Meeting Her Lover; Elisabeth Söderström, soprano, Jan Eyrn, piano; in the Woods; A Ship Is Sailing; Kjerfve, mazz, Jan Eyrn, piano; Moonlight; Sylvia Lundström, soprano; Thomas Schuback, piano; Prince of Denmark of the Lamp; Håkan Hagegård, baritone; Thomas Schuback, piano; Strim Quarta No 5 in D minor, Op 35, 1915; Fryden Quarta

8.50 *Towards Bach*: English Concert under Trevor Pinnock performs some of the original Italian concertos for keyboard arranged by Bach, and the harpsichordist Lara Link Mortensen performs two of the arrangements. Vivaldi (Concerto in D minor, Op 3 No 11); Bach (Concerto in D, BWV 972); Alessandro Marcello (Obbo Concerto in D minor); Vivaldi (Concerto for solo violin in D, Op 3 No 9); Bach (Concerto in D minor, BWV 974); Vivaldi (Concerto in A minor, Op 3 No 5), incl 10.05 Interval Reading

10.45 *Requiem Mass* in memory of Sir Lennor Barkley (1903-89). Live from Westminster Cathedral

12.30 *Mozart* (Cassation in B flat, K 59; Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Martin

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00 by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 6.20, 7.00, 7.20, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Also includes Merril Thomas discussing spring and summer fashion

8.25 *The Pyramid Game* hosted by Steve Jones 8.55 *Thames News* and weather

10.00 *The Time... The Place... The Arena* Soubry presides over a topical discussion

10.40 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes fashion editor's updates on the Windsor; new arrivals; and David Bellamy examining hedgerows and heathland. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather

12.00 *Find a Family*. George Cole introduces 15-year-old Andrew from Scotland

12.10 *Red, White and Freddy*. For the young 12.30 *Home and Away*. Tom and Pippa ruin Carly's romantic plans for Andrew; Morag tells Nigel the reason why she hates Bobby

1.00 *News* at 1.00. Weather 1.20 *Thames News* and weather 1.30 *Santa Barbara*. Eden and Augusta decide that they want Sophie out of Santa Barbara, and Eden arranges a summit meeting

2.00 *TV Weekly*. Anne Diamond takes her weekly look at the soaps, films and dramas of the past seven days

2.30 *Take the High Road*. Emma is ecstatic about getting her driving licence; Sir Ian discusses the future with Fiona and Claire makes a decision that precipitates tragedy

3.00 *Budget 90* introduced by Alastair Stewart with live coverage of John Major's first Budget speech

5.40 *News* at 5.40. Weather 6.00 *Home and Away* (r)

6.25 *Thames News* and weather

7.00 *Emmerdale*. Kate and Sarah stop fighting with Joe over the problems on the farm; Frank has to run the farm alone; Kathy and Christopher are involved in a car chase (Ceefax)

7.30 *Thames Reports* with Paul Greene, Susan Osman, Marcus Powell, Graham Tourse and Bill Wigmore

8.00 *The BBC University Challenge*. When PC Stamp happens on a supermarket robbery, two of the robbers escape. One is Dunlop, a known petty thief, the other, Burnside believes, is a well-known sex-convict turned media personality (Ceefax)

8.30 *After Henry*. Party Politics. Eleanor is determined to show her social skills by throwing a party. She mistakenly believes that she can keep Sarah in the dark but her problems start when Vera Polling involves herself in the preparations

8.50 *Chances*. Hazard, Crane and Jo have both been fired, but when Crane saves a shipment of cars from a bankrupt foreign dealer he is offered a job at Douglas Motors. Jamie Douglas has deserted from the Foreign Legion but his father has hired a private detective to find him (Ceefax)

10.00 *News* at 10.00. Weather 10.30 *Home and Away* (r)

10.40 *News* at 10.40. Weather 10.50 *Home and Away* (r)

10.50 *Home and Away* (r)

11.00 *News* at 11.00. Weather 11.10 *Home and Away* (r)

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2.10 *Home and Away* (r)

2.20 *Home and Away* (r)

2.30 *Home and Away* (r)

BBC

7.10-7.35 *Open University: The Main Frame and the Micro*

8.00 *News* 8.15 *Weather* with Peter Mayne

9.00 *Ceefax*

9.25 *Daytime* on TV: Garmar for beginners 9.40 Science for the young 10.15 Learning to read 10.40 Industrial case studies 11.00 Britain 40 years ago 11.15 Learning about responsibilities 11.35 The development of a new look for a well-known orchestra 1.55 Preparing for the birth of a baby 12.15 How metals are being replaced by plastics 12.35 The problems of over-production in south-west France 12.55 Italian for beginners 1.25 Flore Benjamin looks at festivals and parties 1.40 The Call of the Sea

2.00 *News* and weather followed by *You and Me* (r)

2.15 *Food and Drink*. Live coverage of John Major's first Budget speech, with immediate reactions from Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, politicians and financial experts. Presented by David Dimbleby

6.00 *Film: The Spy in the Green Hat* (1956) starring Robert Vaughn and David McLean. Danger strikes when the UNCLE duc who is sent to Sicily. Directed by Joseph Sargent

7.35 *Biko* (b/w) starring Phil Silvers (r)

8.00 *Food and Drink*. Michael Barry prepares a splendid Sunday lunch, and Jilly Gooden and her guest Oz Clarke give advice on the wines to watch out for this summer

9.00 *Experiment* leaves Sam Beckett travelling back in time to 1955, where he emerges in America's Deep South. He takes on the identity of an elderly black man and, as a result, experiences racism at first hand. Starring Scott Bakula

9.30 *Almost Grown* (see Choice)

10.30 *Budget 1990*. A statement from John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer

10.40 *News* at 10.40. Weather 10.50 *Home and Away* (r)

11.00 *News* at 11.00. Weather 11.10 *Home and Away* (r)

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3.40 *Home and Away* (r)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*

6.25 *Schools*

12.00 *The Parliament Programme* presented by Sue Cameron

12.30 *Business Daily* with Susanah Samuels

1.00 *Sesame Street*. Pre-school learning series

2.00 *The Senior Service*. Information and advice for older viewers including *Study Not Out*. Shaw Taylor presents a new series of topical documentaries (Ceefax)

2.45 *Black Forest Clinic*. German medical drama series (r) 2.55 *Urban Bushmen*. Cartoon

3.40 *The Opash Willy Show*. Who should pick up the bill after a night on the town?

4.30 *Countdown* with Richard Whitley

5.00 *The Lone Ranger* (b/w). Vintage Western series starring Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels

5.30 *4th Dimension*. Science series presented by John Durant and Carol Keating (r)

6.00 *Gophers*. American comedy series

6.30 *The Cosby Show*. Cliff invites Theo's teacher to dinner (r)

7.00 *Channel 4 News*. A special Budget day edition with Jon Snow and Nicholas Owen. Weather

8.00 *Not Pats: The Jewellers*. Precious Time. A look at the way the crafts have changed over the last decade (Ceefax)

8.30 *Travel*. In tonight's final programme Diane Kenwood reports on self-catering cottages in Normandy and looks at what to do if your holiday goes wrong

9.00 *Out on Tuesday*. This week's edition of the gay and lesbian magazine includes a look at Melanie Chisholm's new film *Sex 171* and the *Gulag* and a profile of British artist Alan Souza

10.00 *Nightingales: Opening Night*. Sarge is feeling under the weather so the boys seek the advice of Swan, a medical student who has a strange relationship with the moon

10.30 *Rock Steady*. Nicky Home and Dave Fanning introduce the live rock music show

11.30 *Absolutely*. Off-beat comedy series (r)

12.15 *Film: The Bingo Long Travelling All-Stars and Motor Kings* (1976) starring Billy Dee Williams, James Earl Jones and Richard Pryor. Comedy about a black baseball player who is unfairly dismissed from his team. Directed by John Badham. Ends at 2.15

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BUSINESS

SECTION 2

TUESDAY MARCH 20 1990

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
- LAW 30-31
- SPRING WEDDINGS 37
- SPORT 38-42

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6115 (-0.0125)
W German mark
2.7114 (-0.0392)
Exchange index
85.9 (-0.7)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1759.9 (-29.5)
FT-SE 100
2238.0 (-25.9)
USM (Datastream)
143.62 (-0.73)

Market report, page 26

Booker
up to
£90.5m

Booker, whose interests range from publishing rights to agriculture, made pre-tax profits of £90.5 million (£78.7 million) in the year to end-December.

Turnover rose from £1.84 billion to £2.51 billion, and the final dividend rises from 12p to 13p, payable July 2, to make 19.5p (18p) for the year. The contribution from Booker Entertainment, which includes certain Agatha Christie and James Bond publishing rights, more than tripled.

Temps, page 24

Rugby rises

Rugby Group, the cement and building products concern, raised pre-tax profits from £72.6 million to £89.8 million in the year to end-December. A 3.6p final takes the total payout from 5.2p to 6.45p.

Temps, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2724.32 (-16.90)
Tokyo: Nikkei Av 31283.24 (-1353.20)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2871.39 (-15.07)
Amsterdam: CDS Tendency 113.8 (-1.8)
Sydney: AO 1999.7 (+15.2)
Frankfurt: DAX 1906.77 (+17.08)
Brussels: General 6052.50 (-11.1)
Paris: CAC 523.57 (-2.83)
Zurich: SMI 603.1 (-4.4)
London: FT-A All-Share 1111.57 (-12.22)
FT-100 1217.10 (-12.37)
FT Gold Mines 282.5 (+7.2)
FT Fixed Interest 86.58 (-0.02)
FT Govt Secs 77.12 (-0.48)
Recent issues Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Liberty 435p (+10p)
FALLS:
Unigate 285p (-10p)
Davies & Newman 545p (-10p)
Eurotunnel Units 547p (-10p)
East 895p (-10p)
British Land 331p (-10p)
Great Portland 250p (-10p)
Hammerson A 591p (-10p)
Johnson Cleaners 552p (-10p)
Royal 457p (-11p)
Unilever 565p (-11p)
Rank Org 774p (-10p)
Standard Chartered 542p (-10p)
Pico 217p (-11p)
Body Shop 450p (-15p)
Church 345p (-10p)
SUS A 979p (-10p)
Brasfield 177p (-18p)
Berisford Int 133p (-11p)
Greene King 326p (-10p)
Closing prices
Barracks 27728
SEAQ Volume 324.6m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15%
3-month eligible bills 14%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 6%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.93%
30-year bonds 9%
30-year 9.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £1.6115
DM 2.7114
Sfr 2.7114
Yen 247.37
Index 85.9
ECU 10.747288
SDR 10.803827
ECU 1.338172
SDR 1.243894

GOLD

London: AM \$401.25 pm \$402.10
Close \$402.50-403.00 (248.75-249.25)
New York: Comex \$402.10-402.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) 1.518.15 (\$18.70)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Rate
Australia	10.00	10.00
Canada	1.00	1.00
France	6.55	6.55
Germany	1.93	1.93
Italy	2.00	2.00
Japan	163.60	163.60
Netherlands	2.20	2.20
Spain	166.36	166.36
Sweden	8.46	8.46
Switzerland	2.20	2.20
USA	1.70	1.70
Yugoslavia	136.50	136.50

Notes for major currencies bank rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. (Exchange rates apply to travellers' cheques)
Retail Price Index: 118.6 (January)

End raw deal for small investors, SE told

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Reforms aimed at serving private investors better are to be proposed to the International Stock Exchange after members admitted that small investors had been losers rather than gainers from the 1986 Big Bang revolution in the way trade is conducted on the exchange.

Mr Nigel Elwes, chairman of a committee set up to review the development of the share market, said: "The retail customer has had a raw deal out of the market since Big Bang." He said the Stock

Exchange was anxious to win back private investors and would have to bring in more automation to cut dealing costs and make the service more user-friendly.

Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the ISE, said this might be overstating the case, but admitted that costs for private investors had risen as a result of the changes.

The final report of the Elwes committee, which was welcomed with some reservations by the Stock Exchange Council, recommends that market dealing screens should have a "green strip" which would

publish — anonymously if necessary — the best price quoted by any market-maker for small lots to be dealt under SAEF, the Exchange's computerized small deals service.

Brokers acting for small investors would have to deal at that price.

They could not give their business preferentially to one (sometimes linked) market-maker regardless of his price quotation for the small investor.

The report also proposes that an experimental central limit order facility (Close) be set up so that investors could

put in an order conditional on price. The order would wait until such a price was available and then be dealt immediately.

Mr Hugh Smith said that, taken with plans to save administration costs by a computerized paperless settlement system, these proposals should cut charges substantially to private investors who wanted a simple dealing service.

But he said these were the most controversial proposals in the report and there would be further consultation with members before any final

decisions were taken. The committee argued strongly that the most competitive market-maker should be rewarded with the flow of orders if the market's price-making mechanism was not to suffer. As an additional spur to competition, it has proposed regular monitoring of market-makers to see if they are quoting their fair share of the best prices and not artificially avoiding unwanted business.

Market-makers who act passively and fail to meet the standards in any stock would, if necessary, not be allowed to make a market in that company's stock.

The report also recommends rescinding some of the emergency measures taken in

spring 1988 to offset inter-
necine competition that broke
out among market-makers
after the October 1987 crash.
Publication of the details of
large deals would be delayed
by only 90 minutes instead of
being held overnight and the
obligations of market-makers
to quote prices to each other
would be restored within
limits.

Mr Elwes said his committee also propose strengthening the central market by bringing in matching deals between principals and cross orders between agency brokers.

Mr Elwes said his committee also propose strengthening the central market by bringing in matching deals between principals and cross orders between agency brokers.

Sterling hits
record low
against mark

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The mark rose strongly in foreign exchange markets after the big vote in favour of the conservatives in the East German election, with the pound one of its main victims.

Sterling closed at a record low against the mark, down almost 4 pence at DM2.7114. It was also lower against the dollar in spite of late afternoon intervention by the Bank of England in support of sterling against the US currency, closing in London down 1.25 cents at \$1.6115.

The Bank of England's effective exchange rate index fell 0.7 to 85.9, only 0.1 above the lowest point reached since Mr

Nigel Lawson's resignation as Chancellor.

Interest rates in the money market rose 1/8 of a percentage point, with the key three-month interbank rate at 15 1/8 per cent though trading was not very active. Gifts fell another 1/4 of a point in medium and long dates and 1/2 point in the short dates, partly as a result of the fall in West German bond prices. In the stock market the FT-SE 100 index fell 25.9 to 2,238.0.

The continued weakness in sterling presents a difficult background against which Mr John Major, the Chancellor, must deliver today's Budget. Though the official view is that the fall is partly a reflection of adverse political com-

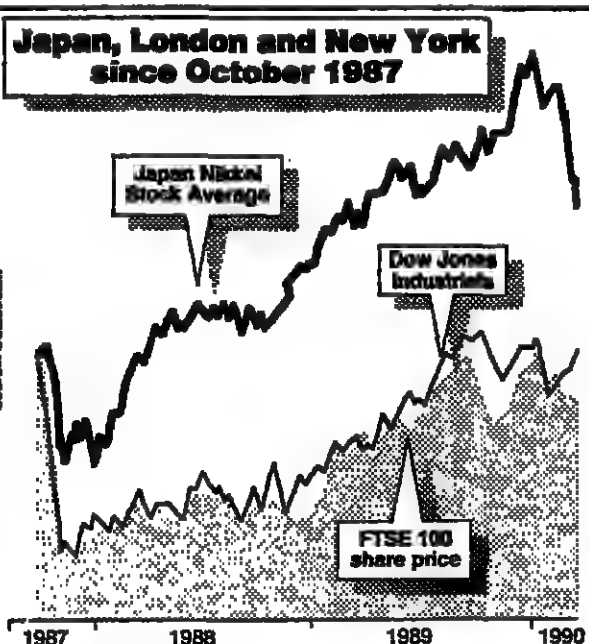
ment, if sustained a weaker exchange will tend to be inflationary.

Mr Mark Franklin of Credit Suisse First Boston said: "Today's exchange rate movements have been more a reflection of market strength than sterling weakness. The mark has been hit by a shock not unlike North Sea oil, and when that happened the pound rose a long way. The Budget is more likely to be good than bad for sterling."

The rise in the mark reflects the view that German unification will give a big boost to demand in the combined German economy which would need control by higher interest rates. Against the mark the dollar fell nearly 1 1/2 pence to DM1.6615.

The yen weakened still further, falling in European trading against the dollar by ¥1.40 to ¥153.40, in spite of Bank of England support during the morning by sales of dollars for yen. A steep fall in the Japanese stock market raised the chances that the central bank there would not raise interest rates this week after all. Sterling, however, was weaker still, falling from ¥249.15 to about ¥247.40.

Herr Elmar Pieroth, the new East German Economics Minister designate, said June 30 is a likely date for monetary union between the two German states. He also confirmed that Ostmarks would be swapped for Deutschmarks at parity.



Comment, page 25

Tokyo shares slump

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Tokyo share prices tumbled more than 1,300 points yesterday, suffering their third worst fall ever and banishing hopes that the stock market's two-month slide has petered out.

A rise in Japanese interest rates to help shore up the yen, which some analysts had expected to be announced this morning, may now be delayed after the fresh collapse.

The Nikkei share index sank 1,353.20 points to 31,263.24, although thin trading and a rush by some institutions to square books ahead of the end of the financial year amplified the descent.

Mr Stephen Church, head of research at UBS Phillips & Drew, dismissed it as "another hiccup on a Monday in Tokyo."

Although the yen continued to weaken as well — the dollar soared ¥1.05 in Tokyo yesterday to a three-year high of

¥153.55 — Japan's financial authorities may not have the stomach to boost industry's borrowing costs yet. They are anxious about the threat of inflation from higher import prices, but also know that a jump in interest rates when investors are jittery might be read as a sign of panic and could send the Nikkei reeling.

It is part of the authorities' dilemma that the stronger yen that might result from a one-point jump in interest rates could restore some confidence in Tokyo share prices.

They are also aware that while London and Wall Street have largely ignored Tokyo's fall, there may come a time when markets take fright at the drop in Japanese stock prices, triggering a downward spiral across the world.

A senior official of the Bank of Japan, the central bank, said the Tokyo stock market had been due for a correction after reaching nearly 39,000

points at the end of last year, though he felt the correction had probably gone too far.

Although the central bank is keen to tighten monetary policy to choke off signs of inflation, the official said Japan was aware of the international impact a rise in its interest rates might have now.

"We have to think carefully of the international impact our actions might have. We can't go on watching forever. But we would like to continue to watch for the moment."

"I think inflation remains under control. But it may be too late to act when the inflation indicator starts to flash. The timing is very difficult."

In some dealing rooms, the mood was maudlin. "Everybody has given up on the market," said Mr Hidetada Yoshida, manager of equity trading at Kidder Peabody. "Nobody knows who will buy, when to buy, or why to buy."

Optimism over County Hall



Upon Westminster Bridge: Jackson in front of the former County Hall, the subject of a £1bn development plan

Mr David Jackson, joint managing director of New England Properties and chief executive of the consortium that hopes to develop County Hall, the former home of the Greater London Council, is optimistic that Mr Christopher Patten, the Environment Secretary, will give the £1 billion scheme his blessing (Matthew Bond writes).

A public inquiry into the consortium's plans to convert the Ralph Knott-designed

building on the Thames' south bank into offices, shops, flats and a five-star hotel ended last November. Mr Jackson is hoping to receive Mr Patten's decision by June. "I'm very optimistic about the outcome of the planning inquiry," he said.

If the scheme is approved, the remaining tenants would move out in October and the developers would move in shortly afterwards. One of the first buildings to be demol-

ished will be an office block at the southern end of Westminster Bridge.

Mr Jackson said potential tenants have expressed a keen interest in the site. The development should be completed by 1993-4.

New England has a 2.8 per cent equity stake in the County Hall project, but as joint project manager will gain considerable revenues from its management of the development. Performance-

driven options could lift its stake to more than 5 per cent.

The company has reported pre-tax profits up by 106 per cent at £3.1 million, helped by £2.0 million of property sale profits, in the year to December. Earnings per share rose 123 per cent to 2.9p and the final dividend is 233 per cent ahead at 1p per share.

The high level of property sales restricted net assets per share to a 13 per cent rise to 29.5p.

Berisford
under Tate
scrutiny

By Angela Mackay

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, has retained the leading New York law firm of Sberman and Sterling to examine Berisford International's US property interests before considering whether to bid for its rival.

In a statement to the Stock Exchange, Tate said exploratory talks had taken place with Berisford "concerning the feasibility of combining their sugar businesses through a recommended offer." However an offer depended on Tate being "satisfied as to the value and status of Berisford's non-sugar interests."

Berisford shares slipped 11p to 134p yesterday on reports that it is facing a paper loss of about £200 million on its New York property portfolio after assuming control of 13 properties when its main partner Mr Joe Neumann failed to pay his debts last September.

Berisford said this was speculation and misleading. Tate stressed that talks with Berisford were at a preliminary stage.

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VPI suspends former owner of American subsidiary

Carter admits theft of \$1m from clients

VPI Group, the public- and investor-relations concern, yesterday suspended Mr Don Carter, the flamboyant former boss of its troubled American offshoot, after he said he would plead guilty to stealing \$1 million of clients' money, charging personal expenses to the company and tax evasion.

Mr Carter, aged 41, founded his Carter Organization over 16 years ago and sold it to VPI for \$75 million in 1987.

He was relieved from all executive duties earlier this year following an official investigation by the New York State Organized Crime Task Force, which was looking into allegations of false billing and overcharging of clients

between 1987 and last year. VPI's chairman, Mr Angus Maitland, said in New York yesterday that he suspended Mr Carter yesterday directly he had confirmed making a formal statement of admission to the *Wall Street Journal* newspaper.

The Organized Crime Task Force has called a press briefing this morning.

After confirming his guilty plea due to be made this week in a New York court, Mr Carter's statement said: "I am sincerely sorry for the injury caused to the clients in question and I have agreed to make immediate restitution of \$1 million. I apologize to all those whose faith in me may now be broken and I will now

dedicate myself to getting on with my life and earning whatever respect I have lost as a result of my past actions."

"My life has been a shambles since this investigation began, but I have no one to blame but myself. In short I made the mess and I'm going to clean it up."

Mr Maitland, who now personally handles the internal budgets of Carter, was in New York for their second review this year. He said: "Obviously we are disappointed with this. ... We hope we will not lose any clients as a result."

The Carter Organization revenue more than tripled to \$50 million in the four years to 1988, but in recent months it has reported sizeable losses.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Turriff weathers storm in advance to £5.82m

Turriff weathered the storm in the construction industry to raise pre-tax profits from £4.35 million to £5.82 million in the 12 months to end-December. A final dividend of 10.75p takes the total from 11.5p to 15p. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the company's broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £7 million in the current year.

A more cautious accounting policy clipped £530,000 off profits for 1989, balanced by a £625,000 exceptional gain from the sale and leaseback of property. Turriff now writes off interest on housing developments as it is incurred, rather than capitalizing it until the project is sold. This, along with increased borrowings and higher rates, boosted interest charges from £740,000 to £1.93 million.

Acorn grows by 123%

Acorn Computer, the educational computer group, jumped 123 per cent to pre-tax £2.52 million on turnover up 22 per cent to £44.9 million. But Acorn, 80 per cent owned by Italy's Olivetti, is not paying a dividend for the third year running even though earnings per share are also up 123 per cent to 3.8p (1.7p).

Halshaw in 8.5% fall

Evans Halshaw, the motor group, was hit by a surge in interest from £1.4 million to £3.7 million, in 1989, and pre-tax profits fell 8.5 per cent to £9.2 million. Group turnover advanced to £400.8 million from £291.6 million. The total dividend rises by 12.5 per cent to 11.25p via a final 7.65p on earnings per share of 27.4p (38.9p).

Refuge hit by losses

Refuge Group, the life insurer, saw a 4 per cent drop in pre-tax profits last year to £14.2 million due to estate agency losses. Losses at the Douglas Allen Spiro chain, with 33 branches in Essex, grew to £1.6 million (£127,000 deficit in 1988).

However, Mr Tom Booth, Refuge's chairman, said that business has begun to pick up in 1990. Refuge's profits in 1988 were inflated by a one-off gain from the change in capital gains tax laws. Without this, earnings per share would have risen 18 per cent to 25.5p. The final dividend is being lifted from 14.5 to 17p, making 24.3p, up 16 per cent.

Simon buys US interests

Simon Engineering has acquired Engineering Enterprises and associated partnership interests of Norman, Oklahoma for \$8.45 million in cash and a further \$500,000 deferred for up to 18 months. EEI is a US consultancy business providing environmental engineering services.

Alba declines at half way

Pre-tax profits at Alba, the consumer electronics company, fell from £3 million to £2.74 million in the six months to December after a £271,000 loss from the 40 per cent share of Network One. Earnings per share fell from 5.69p to 5.21p but the interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

IMI's move to sophistication overcomes soft UK demand

IMI once employed 25,000 people making munitions at its main site at Witton, on the outskirts of Birmingham. Its present workforce is a tenth that size and the only ammunition it makes is for shotguns.

The company has been shifting away from its base in non-ferrous metals for decades, but in the eighties it made a concerted effort to move into more sophisticated products and overseas markets. As a result, IMI has virtually no defence exposure, is much less reliant on Britain's construction industry and derives two-fifths of its sales from its foreign operations. Furthermore, its profit margins have widened from 5 to 12 per cent of sales over the last decade.

This recasting of its product portfolio and geographical spread stood IMI in good stead last year. Pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £125 million despite a softening in British demand. As acquisitions chipped in only £2.2 million of the rise on balance, earnings per share were left 14 per cent up at 25.2p.

The biggest absolute rise came from its fluid power business, where operating profits rose a fifth to £35.9 million due to buoyant markets in Europe, especially in West Germany. Profits from refined and wrought metals were also up a fifth at £24.4 million, helped by strong demand for titanium from the aircraft engine industry. Despite the slowdown in house-building activity in Britain, profits from building products rose 11 per cent to £25.5 million.

Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, is confident of further progress in 1990, which analysts interpret to mean profits of £135 million and earnings per share of 27.2p. Although that 8 per cent rise would be only about half the annual growth in earnings achieved since 1985, it could end up looking a stalwart performance.



Helped by Agatha Christie: Jonathan Taylor, of Booker

At 227p, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of 8, representing good value in the long-term. However, the company has dropped hints about acquisitions and anything sizeable might hold the shares back for a while.

Booker

Agatha Christie helped Booker, whose pre-tax profits were barely alive at half time, to show its seventh consecutive year of profits growth.

Difficulties in its agribusiness had left interim profits a mere £1.2 million ahead of £30.3 million, despite a 68 per cent increase in turnover, and there were fears of a poor outcome at year-end.

But Agatha Christie works receive special mention in the year-end profits roll call —

Booker holds certain paperback rights — as do the group's food distribution and health products interests. They helped Booker, where Mr Jonathan Taylor is chief executive, post pre-tax profits of £90.5 million, against £78.7 million, on a turnover of £2.51 billion (£1.84 billion). A final dividend of 13p makes 19.5p (18p) for the year.

The first-half problems are still only partly resolved, but there is hope that the salmon operations — which cost Booker £4 million because of the fish war with Norway — will return to profit in 1990.

Gearing was 31.8 per cent (17.8 per cent) at year-end. Loss elimination and organic growth should see pre-tax profits at around the £104 million mark in 1990. With the shares at 416p, down 7p, the prospective rating is 9.8 backed by a 6.3 per cent yield.

Like any Agatha Christie, Booker shares on those ratings are hard to put down.

Rugby Group

Rugby Group is adopting a cautious stance as it kicks off the 1989 reporting season for the building-material producers. While the industry as a whole is looking for a 5 per cent fall in cement volumes this year, Mr Andrew Teare, Rugby's managing director, is braced for a fall of as much as 10 per cent, even if much of this can come out of the group's own imports.

When analysts look back over the season in a month's time, the Rugby figures may turn out to be one of the highlights. The company's wide geographical and product spread has meant the odd difficulty — US joinery profits, for example, more than halved after the collapse of the first-time housebuilding market in the North-eastern states.

But a 7 per cent rise in cement volumes in this country in 1989, now looking very much the last of the fat years since Rugby reorganized in the mid-1980s, helped the group as a whole to a 24 per cent profit rise to £89.8 million in the year to end-December.

British cement trading profits jumped 43 per cent last year, outstripping steel products in this country, where a 28 per cent hike includes a £1 million first-time contribution from the Channel Tunnel contract, and a 35 per cent rise from Australian cement and lime.

The British joinery business showed the inevitable housing-related downturn, with a fall of 4 per cent at the trading level.

Rugby has a couple of advantages tucked away for the current year. Debts are now about £6 million and falling, after a disposal in Texas at the year-end, and 1990 should see net interest receivable. The dividend was covered more than three times last year, allowing scope for a further increase even if profits are static.

In yesterday's gloomy market conditions the shares fell 6p to 159p. Assuming pre-tax profits in the £92 million region this year, they now sell on less than eight times prospective earnings, while a 10 per cent increase in the dividend would offer a 5 per cent yield.

Not demanding, but any significant rise would require a sharp bounce for the sector as a whole this summer.

Tyne Tees downturn held to £720,000

By Martin Walker

Tyne Tees Television Holdings, the North-east England independent television contractor, has revealed the full extent of the downturn in advertising revenue in the second half of last year, with a fall in pre-tax profits to end-December from £7.82 million to £7.10 million.

Also contributing to the downturn was higher-than-annual spending on programme-making, up by more than £10 million to £26.73 million. This would bring in higher profits in the current year, said Mr David Reay, managing director.

"Nineteen eighty nine was a hiccup, I hope — 1990 looks very good despite revenues being, to say the least, pretty lethargic," he added. The final goes up by 0.5p to 13p, making a total up from 17.25p to 19p.

Revenues rose by just 2.5 per cent in 1989, against an industry average of 6.5 per cent. But after Tyne Tees kept pace with the other ITV stations in the first half, the main fall-off came in the second six months.

The company is forecasting a 4.5 per cent rise this year. Barclays de Zoete Wedd expects £7.2 million pre-tax in 1990, although this is based on a more cautious estimate of growth in net advertising revenue.

Tyne Tees shares, against the market trend, rose 4p to 288p. It kept the rise in staff costs to well below inflation last year and has the benefit of a pay freeze.

It is also aiming to increase revenues for its technical facilities in London and Newcastle to as much as £5 million in the current year and will have the benefit of £1.5 million in overseas sales for the Barbara Taylor Bradford drama *Act of Will*.

COMPANY BRIEFS

COLORGRAPHIC (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.77m (£2.98m)
EPS: 15.15p (16.34p)
Div: 4.86p, mkg 8.7p

Last year's total dividend was 5.71p. Orders for first two months of 1990 were 17 per cent ahead of last year, with margins firmer.

RPS GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.71m (£1.08m)
EPS: 9.39p (6.30p)
Div: 1.8p, mkg 2.8p

Last year's total dividend was 2.2p. Group has strong order book, much of it for public sector clients. Turnover rose to £8.78m (£8.32m).

CARBO (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.55m (£3.83m)
EPS: 20.1p (17.0p)
Div: 4.3p, mkg 6.8p

Last year's total dividend was 5.7p. Sales were ahead 10.7 per cent to £66.9m, with 72 per cent outside Britain.

CIA GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.82m (£0.88m)
EPS: 9.14p (5.71p)
Div: Nil

The first dividend will be the interim dividend for 1990, which company expects to pay in October. Turnover £188.9m (£54.2m).

LINEAD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.32m (£2.84m)
EPS: 17.87p (15.17p)
Div: 3.8p, mkg 5.7p

Last year's total dividend was 4.76p. About half of output is exported, so minimizing the effect of any economic recession.

HAMILTON OIL (Fin)
Net earnings: \$38.6m
EPS: \$1.38 (\$1.04)
Div: N/A

Results are for 1989. Net earnings for 1988 were \$29.3m. Company made a loss of \$0.98m (\$1.05m) in the three months to end-December.

EDINBURGH OIL & GAS
Pre-tax: £50,000 loss
EPS: 0.38p (0.75p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Final results. Last year's pre-tax loss was £96,000. Board reports that 1990 promises to be the most active year in company's history.

FISHER (JAMES) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.23m (£3.08m)
EPS: 19.04p (13.44p)
Div: 3p, mkg 5p (4p)

Turnover £28.78m (£27.58m). Board looks forward to producing satisfactory results for 1990, subject to conditions.

Refuge Group PRELIMINARY RESULTS 1989

Chairman Tom Booth reports:

"This was a year of strong underlying profits growth with the life assurance results being particularly buoyant. The company has entered the nineties with confidence."

DIVIDENDS UP BY 15.5% RESULTS

	1989	1988
PROFIT FOR YEAR		
after tax (\$m)	12.87	10.88*
DIVIDEND per share		
Interim paid	7.25p	6.50p
Proposed final payable		
11th May 1990	17.00p	14.50p
	24.25p	21.00p

* Before non-recurring profit of \$2.71m



Refuge Group PLC

Refuge House, Alderley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1PF

Telephone: (0625) 5355959

REGISTERED NUMBER: 1854886 ENGLAND



MORE RECORD RESULTS

Financial highlights for the year to 31 December 1989

Sales	UP	19.6%	to £1,079m
Profit before tax	UP	15.9%	to £125.3m
Earnings per share (before extraordinary items)	UP	13.5%	to 25.2p
Dividend	UP	16.6%	to 9.5p
Return on net tangible assets	UP FROM	32.6%	to 33.7%
Net borrowings	DOWN FROM	£47.4m	to £19.8m

Joint venture will produce marine coatings

Courtaulds plans China plant

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Courtaulds Coatings, the paints and coatings subsidiary of Courtaulds, the industrial materials and chemicals group, is planning to manufacture marine paints in China via a joint venture which it hopes will build to a turnover of £10 million a year.

China has been chosen by Courtaulds because of the size of its shipping fleet and its burgeoning shipbuilding industry. Marine paints, in which Courtaulds is world leader, could also be a bridgehead to other expansion. There are prospects of selling, among other lines, powder

coatings, can coatings and steel coil finishes, said Mr Derek Welch, the Courtaulds Coatings business development general manager.

China is now the cheapest country to have a ship built, and its three shipbuilding centres are increasing capacity. The largest is at Shanghai, which is where the Courtaulds joint venture will be located. China is already in the top six shipbuilding nations and is increasingly building for foreign owners.

Courtaulds initially will rent a factory but later, probably within three years, plans

to build a plant. At present values it will mean an investment of about £2 million, less than half the cost of constructing a similar one in Europe.

The company, with a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture, has as its partners the Shanghai Kai Lin Paint Manufacturing Company with 29 per cent, and the China Ocean Shipping Company (Cosco) and the China State Shipbuilding Equipment and Material Company (CSSC) with 10 per cent each.

Cosco has the second largest fleet in the world, amounting

to 650 vessels with a total of 14 million tonnes deadweight. This is almost half the total Chinese tonnage.

CSSC is part of China's state shipbuilding corporation, which controls all the main activities of that type in the country.

Kai Lin has been manufacturing Courtaulds marine coatings under licence since 1982. This link, and Courtaulds long experience of trading in China, led the British group into its decision to increase its presence there.

The political upheavals of last summer delayed talks

only a few weeks. Mr Welch said. "Naturally we weighed the effects of that upheaval but it has no impact on this kind of business much of which has an offshore element."

Mr Michael Pragnell, managing director of Courtaulds Coatings, said: "The steady growth of Chinese shipbuilding and the significance of Chinese fleets in world shipping make it logical for us to invest in manufacturing in China."

The coatings division had a turnover in its last full year of £511 million and an operating profit of £43 million.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Annual anachronism comes round again

In Germany, the Deutschmark is joyously but illogically celebrating the prospect of marriage to the Ostmark, which will put strains on the Federal Republic's ability to keep the lid on inflation, and is likely to push up interest rates and increase the money supply.

In Japan, the equity market is down by a fifth this year already, and the yen is longing for interest rates, last adjusted upwards on Christmas Day, to be raised again. The Japanese are playing the game of waiting until they can raise the rates without it appearing to the world that they have been pushed into it.

In Britain, the financial markets wait for the first Budget from John Major: or do they? Sterling's weakness has less to do with economics than with politics. The opinion polls have painted the currency into a corner from which Mr Major cannot, no matter what surprises he springs from the battered box, engineer its escape. The markets will wait for the paint to dry, by which time the full force of voters' discontent will have been registered in the polling booths of Mid-Staffs.

In fact, the Budget is more a media event than economic reality. It is the tone which is important, rather than the content. Foreign holders of sterling assets do need reassurance, especially important when we are running a significant current account deficit, as the previous Chancellor acknowledged at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington last year.

But although that ring of confidence has to be established, does that mean specific targets need to be set out? Virtually every forecast made a year ago has proved inaccurate: inflation, the balance of payments, the public sector debt repayment and so on. Every missed forecast can be seen as evidence that the "economy is off course," and gives the foreign exchange operators the opportunity to pit their resources against the Government's resolve, in the knowledge that the route plan cannot be changed without loss of face.

A complex economy needs to be managed by broad objectives rather than according to specific forecasts, where failure is expected and success no more than mere chance. While changes in fiscal policy form an essential part of the Budget structure, these could be used to demonstrate tone and direction. Reforms to taxation, though necessary, are not an integral part of economic management. They are usually a side issue, and could be introduced anytime.

One year, a Chancellor, possibly even Mr Major, will be brave enough to say that the art of economic management

has moved on, leaving the annual Budget behind. Not this year though. The newspapers have their Budget special supplements planned and the electronic media have assembled their panels of pundits. Mr Major will be the first Chancellor to present his Budget before the television cameras, and every flick of the eyelids, every twitch of the mouth, every sip from the glass, will be scrutinized.

Mum on the creche

Mr Major, meanwhile, has almost managed to avoid the worst nightmare of Chancellors, the Budget leak. He has been seen sniffing flowers in his constituency and eating ice creams in Whitehall. He has discussed cricket. His wife Norma did admit to the *Sunday Express* that she has shed tears due to the pressures of her husband's long nights at the Treasury. A complex Budget, then? Maybe, but hardly a leak.

What are passed off as leaks are invariably items of mere deduction, which is why contrary speculation frequently appears dressed as fact. Over the weekend, *The Observer* said the Chancellor would not increase tax thresholds in line with inflation while excise duties on petrol, tobacco and alcohol would remain the same. *The Sunday Times*, by contrast, reported that tax allowances would rise with inflation but that excise duties would be increased. Other firm media predictions include: a £100 weekly allowance to look after elderly relatives from the *Mail on Sunday*; a rise in the ceiling for mortgage interest relief from £30,000 to £40,000 or abolition of stamp duty for some or all housebuyers from the *Daily Express* and *Today*; a tax on cars without catalytic converters (*Financial Times*) or higher taxes on leaded petrol (*Sunday Express*); and general agreement of more tax on company cars.

In fact, demand for Budget leaks — or at least what may appear to be leaks — is met with vigour undiminished by the past experience that most of them turn out to be wrong. But if there are leaks it is the loyal Opposition's self-imposed duty to expose them. This year Miss Hilary Armstrong, Labour's spokeswoman on primary education, claimed to have detected a crude one that the Chancellor would abolish tax on crèches at work. The information came from a BBC camera crew which said it had been told to expect a photo call on the day. Miss Armstrong was publicly incensed. "This can only be seen as a breach of Budget security," she said.

Surely not.

Wassall up by 540%

Wassall, the aggressive mini-conglomerate which earlier this year succeeded in its £45 million hostile bid for Metal Closures, has beat its own forecasts with a 540 per cent jump in pre-tax profits from £502,000 in the previous 11-month period to £3.23 million for the 1989 year.

Earnings per share rose by 75 per cent to 10.7p (6.1p). A final dividend of 1.45p pushes the total for the year up 120 per cent to 2.2p (1p).

Canning rise

Pre-tax profits at W Canning, the specialty chemicals and industrial-distribution group, rose by 28 per cent to £9.03 million in the year to December, on turnover up 35 per cent to £108.7 million. Eps climbed by 2 per cent to 21.7p. The final dividend is 4.35p, making 7.15p (6.5p).

Ferranti sales

Ferranti International has completed two management buyouts, together worth £7 million. Albacom plc paid £6.2 million for the electronic components business and Laser Ecosse has acquired Ferranti's laser activities.

Scholes down

Scholes Group, the electrical products manufacturer, reports a drop in interim pre-tax profits from £3.86 million to £2.53. Turnover in the six months to end-December fell from £22.3 million to £21.9 million, while Eps dipped from 7.3p to 4.6p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2.6p.

Metaltrax £7m

Metaltrax, the Birmingham-based engineering group, improved pre-tax profits 16 per cent to £7.05 million during 1989. Earnings per share advanced 14 per cent to 8.79p, and a recommended final dividend of 2.84p brings the total to 3.8p (3.16p).

S&R steady

Scott & Robertson, Britain's leading polythene film manufacturer, saw profits up by just £52,000, making £7.8 million pre-tax, in 1989. Eps fell to 18.7p (22.6p) but the total dividend is due to rise to 7.5p (7p) after a final of 4.5p (3.8p).

BOC funding

BOC Group is to invest more than \$4 million in modernizing the methane-enrichment and helium plant in Odolnow, Poland, that has exclusively supplied it with liquid helium since 1977.

Birch awaits silver

Philip Birch, former chairman and effective creator of Ward White, the Beatles DIY to Halfords group now owned by Boots, has so many job offers piling up on his dining room table that his wife, Liz, is insisting that he buy a filing cabinet to keep them in order. Among the offers — all so far turned down — was a request, just a couple of weeks ago, that he step into the shoes of John Ashcroft and run Coloroll, the beleaguered home furnishings group. "I like a challenge but..." he admitted yesterday. "I'll know when the right offer comes along, as soon as I see it," he added. Meanwhile, he has been keeping himself amused for the past six months — he left Ward White at the end of September — by trying to extract his long-overdue settlement from Boots. Despite assurances from Sir James Blyth, the Boots chairman, last summer that because the takeover battle had been such a clean fight, Birch's settlement would be dealt with in an equally clean and gentlemanly fashion, his words have proved louder than his actions. The matter has, I hear, been left in the hands of lawyer Slaught & May... where the bill must surely be escalating.

Is there no escape? Americans will soon have to eat hot dogs with "edible-ink images" printed on them. A Chicago firm has developed a technique for printing advertising slogans on hot dogs as they roll off the production line.

IMI primed to expand

TONY LARSON



Healthy signs: Gary Allen, managing director (left), and Sir Eric Pountney yesterday

A strong balance sheet and low borrowings meant high interest rates would not deter IMI from making acquisitions, said the chairman, Sir Eric Pountney (Jeremy Andrews writes).

By its December year-end, net borrowings had fallen

from 15 per cent to 5 per cent of shareholders' funds and the metals group would allow gearing to rise above 50 per cent in the short term for the right acquisition.

Profits last year rose 16 per cent to £125 million on sales up a fifth at £1.08 billion,

leaving earnings per share 14 per cent ahead at 25.2p. The final dividend rises 0.7p to 5.7p, taking the total 17 per cent higher at 9.5p.

IMI is exploring possibilities in Eastern Europe.

Tempos, page 24

Quarterly £8m by Blue Arrow

By Neil Bennett

Poor trading in Britain and the United States caused Blue Arrow, the employment services group, to report an 18 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8.12 million in the three months to January.

Mr Mitchell Fromstein, the chairman, said the fall was caused by the difficult markets in both countries and led to losses in several subsidiaries.

Mr Fromstein said the group is considering selling off any of its businesses, other than Manpower, to cut debts of £200 million.

These include the Brook Street Bureau employment agencies. The 13 per cent rise in the interest charge to £5.52 million was a main factor in the fall in the profits.

Business in Continental Europe and Southern US by contrast remained strong and helped the group's Manpower subsidiary to increase profits by 14 per cent to £13.6 million. Group turnover rose

22 per cent to £437 million due to higher bookings. There is no quarterly dividend.

The British profits varied widely with figures prepared under US accounting regulations. These showed a loss of £9.63 million for the quarter, against a loss of £634 million in 1989, due to large goodwill amortization charges.

These are expected to be the last set of figures Blue Arrow publishes under its existing name.

Next week shareholders will vote on whether to rename the group Manpower, after the principal US subsidiary which it acquired in 1987 with the proceeds of the controversial rights issue.

Three-quarters of Blue Arrow's shareholders are now American.

The closure of Blue Arrow's headquarters in the City helped the group reduce central overheads by 39 per cent to £909,000.

Insulation group leaps 70%

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Sheffield Insulations Group, the distributor of thermal insulation and related products, which came to the market last May, surged by 70 per cent to £5.48 million in the year to end-December.

This follows improved sales at nearly every branch, better margins and market share. The figures also include an exceptional credit of £732,000 on gains from property sales.

SIG, the market leader with a share of more than 25 per cent, increased turnover by 6 per cent to £107.6 million. Earnings per share rose by 40 per cent to 17.4p, and by 22 per cent to 17.4p, excluding exceptional items. A dividend of 3.3p (nil), as forecast, is equivalent to 4.95p on an annualized basis.

Mr Norman Adsett, the chairman, whose father started the original business in 1956, expects sales to benefit by at least 5 per cent from the new Building Regulations, to be introduced from April.

Trews time

It is well known that Scottish patriotism runs deep, but observers were nevertheless a little taken aback when the entire 12-man contingent from County North West Wood-Mac, at the eleventh annual Scottish Oils Club dinner in Edinburgh last week — including the firm's chairman and chief executive, Howard MacDonald — arrived wearing kilts. They would, however, be brave men, indeed, if they were to venture into County's new Bishopsgate building thus attired. For sources from within tell me that the partially occupied building — the equities division moves in next month and corporate finance a couple of weeks after that — has been experiencing one or two operational difficulties. Not only has the central heating-cum-air conditioning system been playing up, forcing some employees to keep their coats on all day, despite the mild weather, but in one area of the premises there has been an outbreak of fleas. So badly bitten are some employees that Sister Read, the nurse in charge of the firm's old offices in Drapers Gardens, has been summoned to administer TCP. And the exhibition of these bites has apparently become a popular sport in City watering holes. "Builders using one small room had left food lying about," explains a spokesman, trying to play down the affair. "Rodents came in, carrying fleas." The problem has, I am assured, now been resolved.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A fed-up Fayed leaves

The rigours of public scrutiny have clearly proved too much for the House of Fraser's deputy supreme, Ali Fayed — for he is on the brink of leaving London to live in the United States. Much more circum-spect than his ebullient elder brother Mohammed, Ali is understood to be fed up with the intense interest generated by the damning DTI report into their purchase of the Harrods' parent in 1985. And there is some suggestion that his move to the US could be

permanent. He has already bought a rambling, but somewhat run-down, house in Connecticut and has hired David Easton, the expensive and fashionable American interior designer, to prepare it for occupation by mid-summer, with August mentioned as a likely moving date. In addition, Ali has been busy choosing a wide range of furniture from Mallett, the New Bond Street antique dealer in which the Fayed has a 26 per cent holding.

Return ticket

This week's Leona Helmsley prize for man management goes to Shearson Lehman Hutton for the insensitive handling of its latest round of redundancies. Retail analyst Michael Heery was visiting Next's new Grattan warehouse in Yorkshire when he received a message telling him

to take the next train back to London. Phoning the office from the coach to determine the reason why — and under the attentive gaze of colleagues from other broking houses also on board — he was then bluntly informed that Shearson no longer required his services. A Shearson spokesman admitted that it had not been the ideal way to break the news. The firm later denied he had been told off on the coach.

Who needs a PR man, when the telephoneist is so well trained? A fellow reporter, exasperated after waiting almost 10 minutes for the switchboard operator at SG Warburg to answer, asked if they were having technical problems. In reply, the telephoneist apologized and added: "You do know that Warburg's is the best bank in the world — we're terribly busy here."



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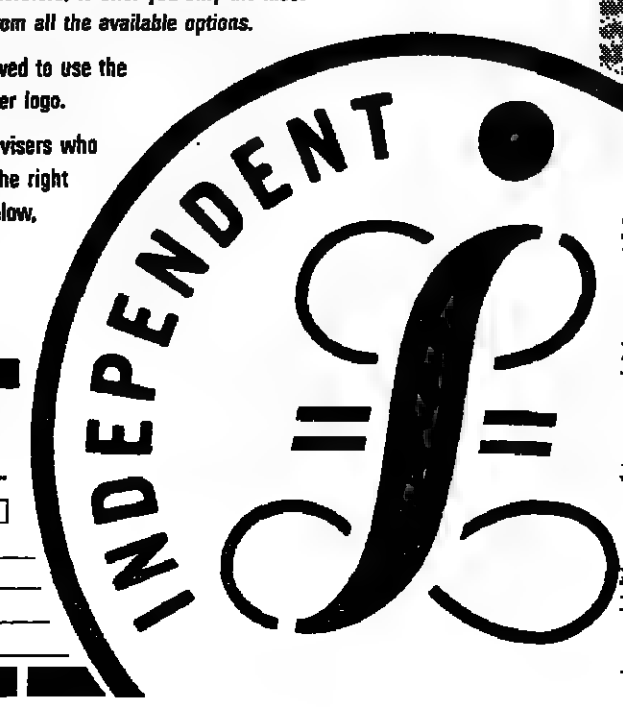
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WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average fell 20 points to 2,721.22 in early trading. Prices slipped, knocked by a sharp fall in Tokyo and the unravelling of the gains achieved last Friday on the "triple witching hour" expirations.

Frankfurt - The DAX index closed 17.08 up at 1,906.77.

	Mar 19 close	Mar 19 close	Mar 19 midday	Mar 19 close	Mar 19 midday	Mar 19 close	Mar 19 close
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Adcof Ltd	641	641					

STOCK MARKET

Chancellor's big day casts a long shadow

The news of Tokyo's third biggest fall ever in one day cast a cloud over London. But investors were more preoccupied with today's Budget.

The bear squeeze, which carried the market higher last week, quickly fizzled out, leaving prices to drift. However, selling remained light with only 324.6 million shares traded. This suited the market-makers who had started to feel the pinch recently. They were anxious to begin Budget day without big positions on their books.

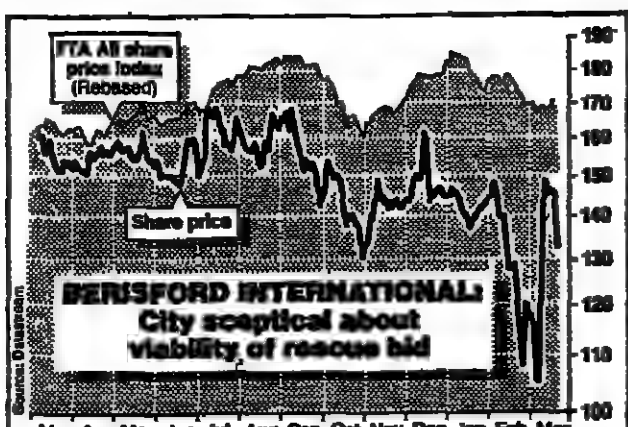
Heavy selling of the FT-SE 100 index on the futures market and a dull start on Wall Street - the Dow Jones industrial average opened 20 points down - also served to drag equities lower. The index closed just above its lowest of the day, down 25.9 to 2,721.22 - wiping out much of last week's gains. The FT 30 index ended 29.5 at 1,759.5.

Governments were left nursing losses of more than £1 at the longer end after another setback for the pound and news of losses in the West German bond market.

Standard Chartered, the international banking group, fell 10p to 543p ahead of its full-year figures today, which are expected to show profits falling short of last year's £313 million. Dealers discounted vague talk of a merger with Royal Bank of Scotland, up 1p at 180p.

BP dipped 5 1/2p to 334 1/2p on the news of its cost-cutting programme and the falling oil price. Others to lose ground included Bannock, 8p to 600p, Enterprise Oil, 7p to 605p, Lazard, 6p to 615p, Shell, 7p to 463p, and Ultramar, 4p to 366p.

Berisford International, the food and commodity trader, fell 11p to 133 1/2p despite confirmation it was in talks with Tate & Lyle about a rescue bid. Tate made a bid for Berisford in 1987, competing with offers from Hillside Holdings, 6p lighter at 241p, and Ferruzzi of Italy. But all three bids were referred to the



Monopolies Commission. Tate would still like to acquire British Sugar - Berisford's biggest and most profitable business - but is said to be reluctant to take on the rest of Berisford.

Mr Ephraim Margulies resigned as Berisford chairman this month after pressure from City fund managers who were critical of the group's New York property investment programme. Berisford may already be

sitting on a trading loss of £200 million from its £630 million investment. Tate & Lyle fell 9p to 282p. Full-year figures from IMI were at the upper end of expectations. Profits rose from £108.1 million to £125.3 million, pushing earnings a share up by 3p to 25.2p. The share slipped 2p to 266 1/2p. Telford, the construction group, hardened 5p to 281p after reporting profits for 1989 up from £4.34 million to £5.8 million, boosting earnings a share from 35.7p to 53.6p.

A rise in profits at Rugby Group, the cement producer, of £17.1 million to £89.7 million failed to impress the price which finished 7p cheaper at 157 1/2p.

Baker, the food manufacturing and distribution business, eased 7p to 416p after reporting profits of £11.8 million up at £90.5 million. Some market estimates had been pinned higher.

Blue Arrow, the Brook Street Bureau and Manpower employment agency group, fell 2p to 89p after reporting a fall in first-quarter pre-tax profits from £3.8 million to £3.1 million. The majority of the group's shareholders are now American.

Consolidated Textiles started life at 253p compared with the original offer price of 250p. After dipping to 240p briefly, the price closed 4p higher at 254p. The company was demerged from its parent group, Courtalds, with shareholders receiving one share in the new company for every four they already held.

Cometairals dived 66p to 316p following completion of the demerger.

Guinness gained 4p to 663 1/2p ahead of full-year figures on Thursday, expected to show pre-tax profits up almost 30 per cent at £670 million. Its associate, Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton, the French luxury goods group, is poised to spend something like £800 million increasing its holding to 24 per cent.

Bridon, the rope and cable maker, fell 5p to 165p after British Steel, 1/2p lighter at 142p, announced it had sold its entire holding of 5.3 million shares, or 9.45 per cent.

Stake-building was also good news for Incept, the electrical surface heating group, 64p higher at 152p.

Brent Walker, the fast-growing leisure group, slipped 1p to 345p.

Michael Clark

RECENT ISSUES

Equities

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World (free)	733.0	-1.5	-13.1	-1.3	-10.6	-1.8	-12.1
EAPE	140.0	-1.5	-13.2	-1.4	-10.7	-1.8	-12.2
(free)	1283.4	-2.2	-17.6	-2.2	-14.5	-2.7	-17.7
Europe	131.7	-2.3	-17.9	-2.3	-14.8	-2.8	-17.9
(free)	739.5	0.1	-2.8	-0.5	-3.4	-0.1	-2.4
North America	159.1	0.2	-2.7	-0.7	-3.6	-0.1	-2.4
(free)	151.7	-0.2	-4.2	-0.5	-3.7	-0.5	-3.9
Nordic	1540.8	-0.1	-1.0	-0.8	-1.9	-0.4	-0.7
(free)	243.8	-0.1	3.7	-0.9	2.6	-0.4	4.0
Pacific	2836.6	-3.9	-26.0	-3.4	-21.0	-4.2	-25.5
Far East	4845.7	-4.1	-26.8	-3.6	-21.7	-4.4	-26.8
Australia	320.2	1.5	-7.8	1.0	-3.2	1.2	-7.7
Austria	2254.0	2.2	51.7	1.1	51.4	1.9	82.2
Belgium	815.1	1.0	-7.0	0.1	-6.8	0.7	-6.6
Canada	558.8	0.5	-6.9	0.5	-6.5	0.2	-6.4
Denmark	1423.3	1.1	8.1	0.0	6.3	0.8	8.5
Finland	1125.4	0.4	-2.4	-0.1	-3.2	0.1	-2.7
(free)	150.7	0.2	1.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	1.4
France	782.9	0.0	-3.2	-1.0	-4.4	-0.3	-2.8
Germany	987.8	2.5	7.6	1.4	7.4	2.2	8.0
Hong Kong	2234.8	-0.2	0.7	-0.4	1.2	-0.5	1.1
Italy	380.6	2.2	-1.2	1.2	-2.8	1.8	-0.6
Japan	4468.0	-4.3	-27.8	-3.8	-22.5	-4.6	-27.3
Netherlands	907.8	-0.1	-4.0	-1.1	-4.4	-0.4	-3.1
New Zealand	92.5	0.2	-10.3	0.3	-8.6	0.1	-10.4
Norway	1640.6	-1.3	22.2	-1.8	21.8	-1.5	22.6
(free)	206.7	-1.3	22.7	-1.9	22.3	-1.6	23.0
Singapore	2056.0	-0.2	3.2	-0.5	2.0	-0.5	3.8
Spain	209.9	1.0	-11.3	-0.1	-12.0	-0.6	-11.6
Sweden	1592.0	-0.3	-8.2	-0.9	-9.2	-0.9	-8.1
(free)	221.8	-0.6	-8.4	-1.9	-8.2	-0.9	-8.1
Switzerland	801.1	-0.4	-2.6	-1.9	-4.4	-0.7	-2.3
(free)	1338.6	-0.5	-2.9	-1.0	-4.7	-0.8	-2.6
UK	684.2	-1.4	-7.8	-1.4	-7.9	-1.7	-7.6
USA	484.3	-0.3	-3.9	-0.6	-3.6	-0.5	-3.8

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Burns End	Property	
2	Burrow Road	Industrials A-D	
3	Unilever	Consumer Goods	
4	Camford Eng	Industrials E-K	
5	Geestland	Industrials L-R	
6	Western Motor	Automotive	
7	Bank of Ireland	Banking	
8	Clayton Son	Industrials A-D	
9	Rockwell	Industrials E-K	
10	Computer People	Electronics	
11	Finch-RS	Paper/Print/Adv	
12	Finch Art Dev	Draperies	
13	Enth	Building/Roads	
14	Ocean Group	Transport	
15	Union Square	Property	
16	Metalix	Industrials L-R	
17	Unif Scientific	Electronics	
18	Alford Irish	Banking	
19	Type Test TV	Leisure	
20	Flaxman	Industrials E-K	
21	Great SR	Draperies	
22	Wood (Arthur)	Industrials S-Z	
23	Alco	Electronics	
24	Trusty Ltd	Newspapers/Pub	
25	Macro 4	Electronics	
26	Shandwick	Paper/Print/Adv	
27	Carlson (H)	Transport	
28	Derwent Hides	Property	
29	Messy Docks	Transport	
30	Edwin	Industrials E-K	
31	AB Elect	Electronics	
32	Hawker Drac	Property	
33	BM GP	Industrials A-D	
34	Bowthorpe	Electronics	
35	Fisher (James)	Transport	
36	LWT GP	Leisure	
37	Quintess (sa)	Electronics	
38	T & N (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
39	Ranger	Oil/Gas	
40	Fidel	Industrials E-K	
41	SD-Solom	Electronics	
42	Plenco	Chemicals/Pet	
43	Realty Useful	Leisure	
44	Tynor	Building/Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

ELECTRICALS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities marked lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 12. Dealings end March 23. Contango day March 26. Settlement day April 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

FINANCE, LAND								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

FOODS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

E-K								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

L-R								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

S-Z								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

INSURANCE								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MINING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCO								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MINING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCO								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

LEISURE								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MINING								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

PROPERTY								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TEXTILES								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TOBACCO								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

TRANSPORT								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E

OILS, GAS								
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low
FT-SE 100	2344.5	2373.0	2320.0	2360.0	271	Three Month ECU	80.17	80.20	80.15
Mar 80	2344.5	2373.0	2320.0	2360.0	271	Mar 80	80.17	80.20	80.15
Jun 80	2344.5	2373.0	2320.0	2360.0	271	Jun 80	80.17	80.20	80.15
Three Month Sterling	80.17	80.20	80.15	80.17	271	US Treasury Bond	92.00	92.05	92.00
Mar 80	80.17	80.20	80.15	80.17	271	Mar 80	92.00	92.05	92.00
Jun 80	80.17	80.20	80.15	80.17	271	Jun 80	92.00	92.05	92.00
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	London LBR	82.14	82.17	82.14
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	82.14	82.17	82.14
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	82.14	82.17	82.14
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Japanese Govt Bond	92.10	92.13	92.10
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	92.10	92.13	92.10
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	92.10	92.13	92.10
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	German Govt Bond	92.00	92.03	92.00
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	92.00	92.03	92.00
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	92.00	92.03	92.00
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Jun 80	84.54	84.57	84.54
Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Three Month Eurodollar	84.54	84.57	84.54
Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.51	84.54	271	Mar 80	84.54	84.57	84.54

هكذا من الامم

Counting the cost of unity

As East Germans cast their vote for reunification, Sir Alan Walters looks at the methods of achieving a single mark and the implications of such a move



A big bang or a whimper? Sir Alan Walters considers options open to the two Germanies

The unification envisaged by Chancellor Kohl is that the GDR adopt the Deutschmark in toto. Any financial assets would be converted from Ostmarks, either on a designated "day" (a big bang) or phased over weeks or months, (a long whimper). Under the phased approach the two marks would have to coexist, and this essentially means that there be no fixed exchange rate or a promise or even the appearance of a promise, of a particular conversion ratio. The big bang would avoid a great deal of turmoil, and I would expect the Bundesbank to urge that it all be done quickly.

An alternative unification could be achieved through a currency board arrangement, retaining an Ostmark linked to the Deutschmark through convertibility of the Ostmark notes into Deutschmark currency notes. Arbitrage would ensure that this convertibility spread to all other financial assets. Such an arrangement would preserve an East German currency, and the possibility, in extremis, of adjusting it against the Deutschmark.

A currency board would provide a period of convalescence, for political and economic reasons; and after that period of massive adjustments, the FRG could more easily slip into a full monetary union for a Greater Germany. From all reports the option of an interim currency board has not been broached, and I shall assume that option is out and the big bang is chosen.

The official rate of one Ostmark to one Deutschmark is an accounting fiction, but is the basis for considerable subsidies in the GDR on official imports from the convertible currency countries. The free market rate, much closer to the relative buying powers, has been roughly seven to one. But the distorted and regulated pricing system, with all the shortages and rationing of the GDR, render the statistics

chaotic and incapable of determining "price" in the sense used in Western market economies.

Such a "free" rate is also skewed by expectations as to conversion rates likely to be offered. If, for example, the perception is that the Bundesbank will convert at three, then it will pay to sell Deutschmark (indeed to borrow any convertible currency tied to the Dmark) and acquire Ostmark at seven and make a tidy profit on conversion when the Bundesbank obliges. Thus the increase in demand for Ostmark will reduce the free market rate (and the profitability of arbitrage), until it approaches the Bundesbank conversion rate of three. The point is that the *de facto* conversion rate, when known, will determine the free market rate.

The main point is that there will be a flight out of Deutschmark (and other asso-

Fall in demand for East German goods and the dislocation so created will bring a clamour for help

ciated convertible currencies) into the Ostmark. Much will depend on how the GDR authorities behave. The most scandalous policy would be for them to expand the issue of Ostmarks knowing that anyone who acquired them would benefit with a massive capital gain at the expense of the FRG. The central bank of the GDR could say, with truth, that it is merely accommodating the demand for money.

All such currency operations will raise the value of the Ostmark and reduce the value of the Deutschmark, putting pressure on German interest rates if they seek to avoid depreciation against the dollar and yen. The Bundesbank is unlikely to allow the 100 per cent plus seen in overnight French markets when a

devaluation of the franc was imminent, but what they will do, I do not know. All I can do is point to the dilemma.

Given the probability of a favourable conversion rate in the near future, the market rate will be far above the pre-unification equilibrium rate of seven. Thus if the market rate is forced down to three by the Bundesbank conversion announcement, and if we imagine, for the time being, that the Deutschmark prices in FRG remain constant, the demand for East German goods and the unemployment and dislocation so created will result in a clamour for help. It will be argued that it would be better to pay the Eastern populace subsidies to stay in the East, rather than having them descend on the FRG.

The budgetary cost? We can only guess, but my view would be that the minimum would be some \$2,000 per capita — which would cost over \$30 billion a year, and I suspect that \$50 billion would be nearer to the actual cost. Whether this budgetary cost is financed by cutting other expenditure, or by borrowing, or by increases in taxation, does affect the outcome but in fairly predictable ways. I am uncertain about how the contractual payments, But Deutschmark prices in the short run, reflecting: (a) that anyone holding Ostmarks up to (say) January 1990 will make a substantial capital gain, and no doubt part of this will be spent primarily in West Germany, and (b) that the joint money supply in purchasing power terms will be increased by the conversion operation, which, unless mopped up by sales of bonds (and consequential increases of interest rates — although much of this may well have already occurred in anticipation of the inevitable), will have a *once and for all* effect on the price level. Strictly it will not give rise to any persistent additional increases in prices.

There is also likely to be a secondary reaction to a three to one conversion ratio. The

fall in the demand for East German goods and the unemployment and dislocation so created will result in a clamour for help. It will be argued that it would be better to pay the Eastern populace subsidies to stay in the East, rather than having them descend on the FRG.

Such as pensions, etc, fixed in Ostmark terms, will be translated into Dmark terms. It is in the interests of creditors to have them at the 1:1 official rate. If they remained the obligation of the GDR government, it would have a massive deficit which it would hope would be taken on by the Greater German government. But the FRG is unlikely to countenance any such sleight of hand.

Apart from the savings accounts, the debt and credit structure of any planned economy differs from that of Western economy, and credit, usually from the nationalized central bank, is always rationed and usually at negative real interest rates. Similarly, their accounting structures are primitive and rarely reflect any amortization or depreciation effects. If I

were Pöhl, I would argue strongly that the GDR would have to sort out the pre-unification internal debt positions among its inhabitants and state owned businesses.

The East German money supply (M3) amounts to some 200 billion Ostmarks. Reckoning at the official rate this is about 16 per cent of the M3 of the FRG. At three to one, it is only about 5 per cent. Thus it is said to be easily contained, and many economists have opined that the credit overhang is manageable without anything more than an additional half a per cent on inflation. This may be so. If the purchasing power parity rate is 1 to 6 (say), and the demand for real balances in the East does not change (a heroic assumption), then the excess money supply created will be nearly 2.7 per cent of the money supply of the joint Germanies. If this were phased over five years, with no additional bond sales to offset it, the inflation rate would be an additional half a per cent spread out over a couple of years or so behind that monetary expansion.

But I think that the big bang effect would give rise to that 2.7 per cent appearing in the year of conversion. It could be spread out by bond sales, but that would increase already high interest rates, causing great difficulties in the EMS. Neither option is pleasant and no doubt Pöhl will take what he considers to be the alternative which injures the reputation of the Bundesbank least — probably take 1 per cent on inflation and the rest on the bond market.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Call	Put
Symbol	Strike	Strike	Strike	Strike
And Lyon	250 27 38 50	7 17 22	250 27 38 50	7 17 22
(143)	250 27 38 50	7 17 22	250 27 38 50	7 17 22
ASDA	100 11 18 22	2 4 6	100 11 18 22	2 4 6
(110)	100 11 18 22	2 4 6	100 11 18 22	2 4 6
Ban	120 2 7 11	14 17	120 2 7 11	14 17
(197)	120 2 7 11	14 17	120 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	150 2 7 11	14 17	150 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	150 2 7 11	14 17	150 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	200 2 7 11	14 17	200 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	200 2 7 11	14 17	200 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	250 2 7 11	14 17	250 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	250 2 7 11	14 17	250 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	300 2 7 11	14 17	300 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	300 2 7 11	14 17	300 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	350 2 7 11	14 17	350 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	350 2 7 11	14 17	350 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	400 2 7 11	14 17	400 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	400 2 7 11	14 17	400 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	450 2 7 11	14 17	450 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	450 2 7 11	14 17	450 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	500 2 7 11	14 17	500 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	500 2 7 11	14 17	500 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	550 2 7 11	14 17	550 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	550 2 7 11	14 17	550 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	600 2 7 11	14 17	600 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	600 2 7 11	14 17	600 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	650 2 7 11	14 17	650 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	650 2 7 11	14 17	650 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	700 2 7 11	14 17	700 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	700 2 7 11	14 17	700 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	750 2 7 11	14 17	750 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	750 2 7 11	14 17	750 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	800 2 7 11	14 17	800 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	800 2 7 11	14 17	800 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	850 2 7 11	14 17	850 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	850 2 7 11	14 17	850 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	900 2 7 11	14 17	900 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	900 2 7 11	14 17	900 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	950 2 7 11	14 17	950 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	950 2 7 11	14 17	950 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	1000 2 7 11	14 17	1000 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	1000 2 7 11	14 17	1000 2 7 11	14 17

March 16, 1990. Total: 17857 Calls 9444 Puts 8213. Underlying security price. FT-SE 1000 Puts 2478

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Call	Put
Symbol	Strike	Strike	Strike	Strike
And Lyon	250 27 38 50	7 17 22	250 27 38 50	7 17 22
(143)	250 27 38 50	7 17 22	250 27 38 50	7 17 22
ASDA	100 11 18 22	2 4 6	100 11 18 22	2 4 6
(110)	100 11 18 22	2 4 6	100 11 18 22	2 4 6
Ban	120 2 7 11	14 17	120 2 7 11	14 17
(197)	120 2 7 11	14 17	120 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	150 2 7 11	14 17	150 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	150 2 7 11	14 17	150 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	200 2 7 11	14 17	200 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	200 2 7 11	14 17	200 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	250 2 7 11	14 17	250 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	250 2 7 11	14 17	250 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	300 2 7 11	14 17	300 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	300 2 7 11	14 17	300 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	350 2 7 11	14 17	350 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	350 2 7 11	14 17	350 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	400 2 7 11	14 17	400 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	400 2 7 11	14 17	400 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	450 2 7 11	14 17	450 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	450 2 7 11	14 17	450 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	500 2 7 11	14 17	500 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	500 2 7 11	14 17	500 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	550 2 7 11	14 17	550 2 7 11	14 17
(207)	550 2 7 11	14 17	550 2 7 11	14 17
Ban	600 2 7 11	14 17	600 2 7 11	14 17
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THE LAW

Look more closely at video

A recent television documentary, *Hilary in Hiding*, focused on an American case in which a mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, alleged that her former husband had sexually abused their daughter, Hilary.

A video of Hilary at the age of four being questioned by Dr Morgan about the alleged abuse was not permitted to be shown in civil proceedings concerning access rights to the child, who was in her mother's custody.

The judge refused to deny access to the father, but rather than comply with the court order, Dr Morgan went to jail for two years and her daughter was sent into hiding with her grandparents in New Zealand. The case is now being fought there.

It might well be thought that, in a situation where the foremost issue should have been the child's safety, any evidence with a bearing on the matter should have been seen by the judge.

But where criminal proceedings are concerned and the liberty of the accused is at stake, different issues arise. In suspected cases of child abuse, it is increasingly the practice for a police officer and a social worker to interview the child immediately and for that interview to be video-recorded. If the interview is conducted prop-



erly and fairly without prompting, the video-recording of it constitutes an invaluable record.

Yet such videos constitute inadmissible evidence and cannot generally be shown in a criminal trial, whether or not the child is called as a witness.

The Advisory Group on Video-Recorded Evidence, in its report to the Home Secretary last December, strongly recommended that the exclusion of videos — which stems from the antiquated and much-criticized hearsay rule — should cease.

The group, which was solely concerned with criminal proceedings, proposes that whether or not a video should be admitted in court should be determined by a Crown Court judge at a pre-trial application. He would be helped by a code of practice on how, when, where and by whom interviews should be conducted and recorded.

The judge would not be compelled to admit any video which complied with the code of practice, nor to exclude any which did not; and he should exclude the video in its entirety only if it

Video-recorded evidence should be made admissible, Jennifer Temkin argues

would be contrary to the interests of justice to admit it, giving his reasons in writing.

The video of Hilary was not made for or intended to be used in criminal proceedings. Nor does the proposed code contemplate that a videoed interview of the kind conducted by Dr Morgan be admissible as evidence in criminal proceedings in this country.

The advisory group had in mind that joint investigation teams of social workers and police should take charge of child sexual abuse cases and that the code would stipulate that the interview generally be conducted by a police officer or social worker, or both.

Occasionally, it might be conducted by someone else involved professionally with the welfare of children, such as a doctor, nurse, teacher or health worker. But interviews by relatives were certainly not envisaged, and the report discourages the presence of parents at the interview, except where necessary in the case of a small child.

It is proposed that police and social workers carrying out interviews should be specially and

jointly trained. The training would include child psychology and cognitive development, instruction in the law on crimes of violence and sexual offences against children, and the law of evidence relating to rules and procedures for examining witnesses in court. Communication skills would also be emphasized.

All of this was thought to be essential, because it is proposed that the video substantially replace the examination in chief of the child in court.

The interviewer would thus be taught to pose questions in a way acceptable in the court-room and to avoid, where possible, leading questions.

The seriousness of the matter and the importance of telling the truth would be emphasized to the child.

Hilary's account was delivered with the substantial help of anatomically correct dolls. The advisory group recommends that the code stipulate that such dolls be used with extreme caution in interviews, and generally not at all

until after disclosure of abuse has taken place.

Interviews would take place in a purpose-built suite; many such exist already in hospitals. Suites set up by the police for rape victims could also be used.

The equipment, ideally involving two cameras, should be of high quality, capable of clearly recording the words, gestures and facial expressions of all the parties in the room and should be able to note the time and date of the interview.

This should take place as soon as practicable after an offence has been reported. A medical examination must first be needed, and an inter-agency consultation would invariably be essential, but the delay should not exceed several days. The recorded interview should be shown to the alleged offender as soon as possible.

These proposed standards are exacting. But the code is meant to give guidance only and to be interpreted in a common sense way. Clearly, however, for a video to be admissible in criminal proceedings, it would generally have to have been made with that end in view. Other videoed interviews, even if as eloquent as Dr Morgan's, would be far less likely to pass muster.

Professor Temkin was a member of the Advisory Group on Video-Recorded Evidence.



Mother's sacrifice: Dr Elizabeth Morgan, shown with her daughter, Hilary, spent two years in jail rather than let Hilary visit her father

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Law Report March 20 1990

Court of Appeal

Power to review industrial tribunal

Certificate was not conclusive

Adams and Another v West Sussex County Council
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr K. Graham and Miss A. P. Vale
[Judgment March 14]

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had no general authority to review an industrial tribunal's exercise of discretion on interlocutory matters but could only interfere where there was a misdirection of law or the result was one which no reasonable tribunal could have reached.

The decision of the appeal tribunal in *Medallion Holidays Ltd v Birch* (1985) ICR 578 was to be preferred to that in *British Library v Palyza* (1984) ICR 504.

The appeal tribunal so held when giving their reasons for dismissing an appeal by the employees, Mrs Maureen Adams and Mrs Margaret Rayner, from a decision of the chairman of a Brighton industrial tribunal in December 1989, refusing

their request for discovery of documents relating to their claim for compensation for unfair dismissal against their employers, West Sussex County Council.

Mr Nicholas Vineall for the employees; Mr Patrick Elias for the employers.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the employees had sought an order requiring the employers to adduce evidence which they considered necessary to dispose fairly of their claim. The chairman of the industrial tribunal refused their request.

On appeal it was argued that although the chairman had not misdirected himself in law the employers were not limited to showing an error of law but could argue the matter afresh. For that proposition counsel cited the decision of the appeal tribunal in *British Library v Palyza*. In his argument to the con-

trary Mr Elias relied upon *Medallion Holidays Ltd v Birch* in which the appeal tribunal took the view that there was no general authority to review an industrial tribunal's exercise of discretion on interlocutory matters. There were thus two conflicting decisions of the appeal tribunal.

An appeal from a final order was not a rehearing. Unless there was perversity an appellant had to establish an error of law. In giving its decision in interlocutory proceedings, an industrial tribunal was exercising its discretion but that discretion had to be exercised within the powers given to the industrial tribunal on that issue and within the relevant legal principles which had been evolved through decisions of appellate courts.

It seemed desirable that the same principle should apply to interlocutory appeals as for final appeals.

In examining an interlocutory order of an industrial tribunal or of a chairman sitting alone there were three issues for the appeal tribunal: (i) was the order made within the powers given to the tribunal; (ii) had the discretion been exercised within guiding legal principles (for example, as to confidentiality documents in discovery cases); and (iii) could the exercise of the discretion be attacked on the principle that it was beyond what any reasonable tribunal could have decided?

That approach followed from the reasoning of Mr Justice Arnold in *Bullock v James Lane (Turf Accountants) Ltd* (1979) ICR 778.

The appeal tribunal preferred the view stated in *Medallion Holidays Ltd v Birch* to that in the *British Library* case. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Free Representation Unit; Mr E. M. Holdsworth, Chichester.

Jones and Another v Cook and Another
Before Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Woolf
[Judgment March 15]

A certificate from a housing authority which stated that accommodation offered to a tenant was similar in extent to council-owned dwellings-houses which might be provided for families of the size of the tenant's was not a certificate capable of being conclusive evidence of the extent of council accommodation in the neighbourhood within paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the defendants, Mr and Mrs Robert Cook, from a decision of Judge McNaught at Stroud County Court on October 6, 1989, whereby he had granted an order for possession of 2 Nash End Farm Cottage, Bisley, to the plaintiffs, Elvert Anthony Willoughby Jones and

David Courtney Massey, executors of the will of Violet Mary Wilby, deceased. The court remitted the matter to Stroud County Court for rehearing.

Mr Timothy Hills for the defendants; Mr Martin Steen for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that the plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to possession because they were providing alternative accommodation which was suitable at East Cottage, approximately 400 yards away from Nash End Farm.

The judge had made a clear finding in favour of the plaintiffs on the basis of a certificate issued by the local housing authority on April 5, 1989. The validity of that certificate was at the heart of the dispute.

In order to obtain an order for possession the plaintiffs had to comply with section 98(1)(a) of the Rent Act 1977. That meant that the court had to be satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation was available and it was reasonable to make the order. Paragraph 4 of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Act was relevant.

There was no dispute that the relevant accommodation would be let in accordance with paragraph 4(a).

What was in dispute was the extent of the accommodation provided in the neighbourhood by the housing authority for persons with needs similar to those of the tenant and his family.

By paragraph 5(1)(a) of the Schedule the task of deciding was placed on the court.

In order for a certificate to comply with paragraph 5(2)(a) it had to be a certificate of the housing authority and it had to state the extent of the accommodation afforded by dwelling-houses provided by the authority to meet the needs of tenants with families of such number as were specified in the certificate.

The certificate which was issued stated: "This is to certify that, within the terms of paragraph 4(a) of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977, the above property is similar in extent to council-owned dwelling-houses which may be provided in the neighbourhood for families consisting of husband, wife and three children."

In his admirably clear judgment the judge set out his reasoning step by step. His approach was substantially correct, but he was in error in a material respect.

The certificate should set out the extent of the accommodation provided by the housing authority, and it was the judge's job to decide whether the alternative accommodation offered was similar.

If he did so decide, the deeming provision in paragraph 4 came into operation, but if it was not similar the deeming

provision did not take effect. The judge had elided two tasks, that of the housing authority in providing a certificate and his own under paragraph 5(1)(a).

The further question arose whether the certificate complied with paragraph 5(2). Mr Hills submitted that it did not.

In answer Mr Steen submitted that the certificate had to be read in the context of the evidence given before the judge. In addition, he submitted that the judge's finding that the certificate was conclusive was a finding of fact and could not be raised on an appeal to the Court of Appeal.

The question whether a certificate was admissible and whether it performed its function was a question of law. The only conclusion was that the certificate was not one which complied with the Schedule.

Such a view was supported by *McDonnell v Daly* (1969) 1 WLR 1482. That case had been decided before the 1977 Act came into force, but the statutory provisions were similar.

It was not possible for the court to decide the question whether accommodation offered would be suitable. The case would have to be remitted to the county court.

Lord Justice Stocker delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: R. G. McLusky & Co. Minehead; Rickaby Jessop, Cheltenham.

Court will control pace of multi-party litigation

Chapman v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and Others
Rimmer v Same
Before Mr Justice Steyn
[Judgment March 6]

Where a case involved complex multi-party litigation, the "sporting theory of justice" had no place. In such cases, in the public interest, the concept of party being in control of the litigation ought, as far as possible, to be subordinated to case management techniques controlled by the court.

Order 21, rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court did not, as of right, authorize the discontinuance, within a stipulated period, of third-party or contribution proceedings.

Mr Justice Steyn so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the application of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire for an order to discontinue proceedings against the club and the club against Eastwood & Partners, a firm of engineers, in respect of proceedings brought against him by the widows of two men killed in the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in April 1989.

Order 21, rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "(1) ... the plaintiff in an action begun by writ may, without the leave of the court, discontinue the action, or withdraw any particular claim made by him therein, as against any or all of the defendants at any time not later than 14 days after the service of the defence on him or, if there are two or more defendants, of the defence last served, by serving a notice to that effect on the defendant concerned."

Order 16, rule 3 provides: "(4) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this rule, the following provisions of these rules ... shall apply in relation to a third-party notice and to the proceedings begun thereby as if: (a) the third-party notice were a writ and the proceedings begun thereby an action; and (b) the defendant issuing the third-party notice were a plaintiff and the person against whom it is issued a defendant in that action."

Mr Charles Woodward, QC and Mr Andrew Nightingale for the chief constable; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Richard Davies for Sheffield Wednesday; Mr Justin Fenwick for the engineers.

MR JUSTICE STEYN said that the case arose from the Hillsborough disaster in April 1989. In July 1989, a steering committee was formed to coordinate litigation by victims of the disaster and writs were

issued in two separate actions by Mrs Chapman and Mrs Rimmer, widows of two men who had been killed in separate incidents in the stadium.

Initially there were two defendants to those actions, namely, the chief constable and the football club.

In October 1989, the chief constable issued a contribution party being in control of the litigation ought, as far as possible, to be subordinated to case management techniques controlled by the court.

In December 1989, he announced, without admitting liability, an undertaking to compensate the victims.

Later in that month, there was a pre-trial review. It was submitted for the chief constable that there should be no fixed date for the contribution proceedings. That submission was rejected and a direction was made that the contribution proceedings be fixed for October 1990.

In January 1990, the chief constable purported to give notices of discontinuance pursuant to Order 21, rule 2 of the contribution notices.

The first question was whether the chief constable was entitled as of right to serve notices of discontinuance.

It was conceded, rightly, that Order 21, rule 2, read alone, did not authorize the discontinuance as of right of third-party or contribution proceedings. The reason was that Order 21, rule 2 related only to "an action begun by writ".

Order 21, rule 2, could therefore only apply to third-party or contribution proceedings if there was some provision in Order 16 which made Order 21, rule 2 applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to contribution and third-party proceedings.

Order 16, rule 8 governed claims and issues between a defendant and some other party and rule 8(3) provided that the same procedure should be adopted for the determination between the defendant by whom, and the person against whom, such a notice was served, as would be appropriate if the person served was a third party. That provision, it was submitted, brought into play Order 16, rule 3(4).

The chief constable submitted that in applying Order 21, rule 2 it was permissible for that purpose to treat third-party and contribution proceedings as if they had been begun by writ.

It was important to bear in mind that Order 16, rule 6 provided: "Proceedings on a third-party notice may, at any stage of the proceedings, be set aside by the court." By virtue of Order 16 rule 8(3) that provision also applied to proceedings between defendants.

Therefore, any party who sought discontinuance of contribution proceedings could apply to the court for appropriate relief which was in the discretion of the court and could be granted on terms, including a term requiring an undertaking not to recommence proceedings.

For those reasons, in his Lordship's judgment, the notice of discontinuance, purportedly given as of right under Order 21, rule 2, were invalid.

The chief constable then sought to urge the court to exercise its discretion to discontinue or set aside the contribution proceedings. He argued that he should be in the position of *dominus litis*, in control of the proceedings, and be free to commence proceedings afresh at any time within the limitation period.

On behalf of Sheffield Wednesday and the engineering firm, it was submitted that the notice ought to be maintained and that the court ought only to allow discontinuance, or order the setting aside of proceedings subject to an undertaking by the chief constable not to bring subsequent proceedings.

His Lordship said that he was considering litigation which could involve some 900 claims, in all or most of which, the chief constable would seek a contribution from the club and/or the engineers.

It was complex multi-party litigation. In such litigation, the sporting theory of justice ought to have no place.

In the public interest, the concept of *dominus litis* ought, as far as possible, to be subordinated to case management techniques controlled by the court. Subject to preserving the protections offered by the adversarial system, the court ought to control the pace of the litigation.

His Lordship said there was no reason why a fair hearing of issues could not take place in October or November 1990. Moreover, an early resolution of the totality of that complex multi-party litigation was in the best interests of the administration of justice.

Solicitors: Hammond Solicitors, Bradford; Davies Arnold & Cooper; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

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Applications should be submitted not later than Friday, 20 April to Miss Denise Cook, Lord Chancellor's Department, Trevelyan House, 30 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2BY. Application forms will be provided on request to that address, or by telephone to 01-210 8667/8.

THE LAW

Taking the ice out of divorce

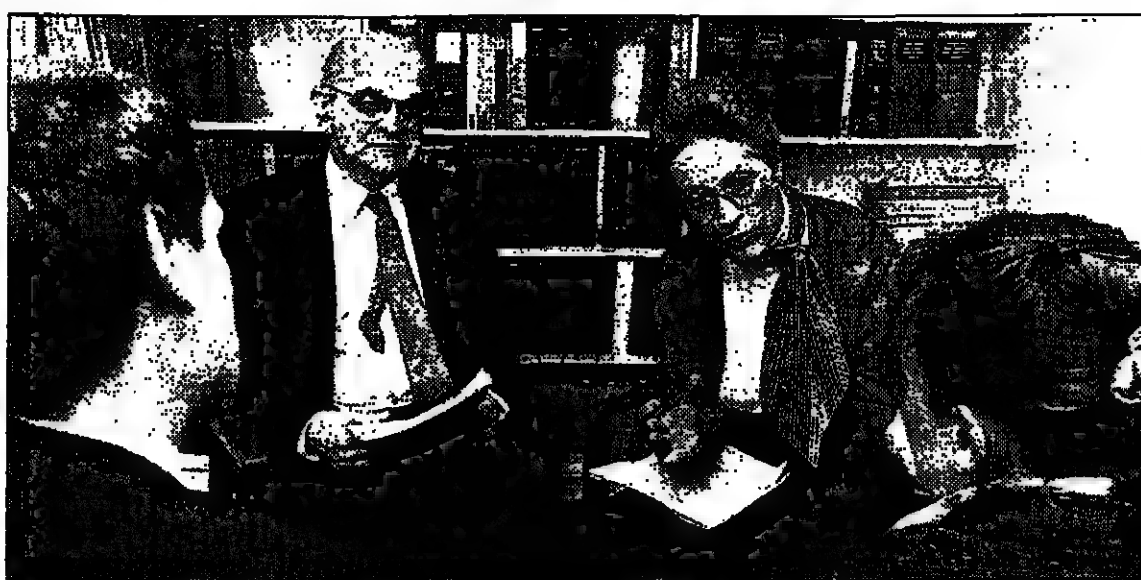
Edward Fennell
reports on a group
of lawyers who
strive to save
failing marriages

Will the Lord Chancellor's proposal last week to give more emphasis to reconciliation in divorce cases be bad for lawyers' business? Certainly, many solicitors have an unrepentant commercial attitude to their matrimonial work. For example, an East Anglian lawyer boasted to me about the huge growth in divorce in his area which had more than balanced out the decline in conveyancing. "Long may it continue," he added.

While the adversarial nature of most divorces may have boosted fees it has done little for the image of lawyers. Judging from the bitter comments on the BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme last week, solicitors are viewed more as the murderers of marriage than its undertakers.

In spite of this, there is a small but growing band of lawyers — members of the Family Mediators' Association — who can demonstrate real commitment to bringing husband and wife together.

Set up in December 1988, the FMA aims to help couples, at any



Counsellors Jack and Rita Bleiman, of the Family Mediators' Association, help a couple heading for divorce

stage of separation or divorce, to reach agreement in a non-adversarial way. Working in conjunction with lay people, the FMA's 100 or so solicitors seek to resolve basic issues between couples before they come to court.

"Divorce is not a winning game," says Jack Bleiman, of the London firm Beckman & Beckman and a founding member of the FMA. "Unlike most kinds of legal action, there are no winners in divorce, only losers. All you can do is try to make the best of a bad job, particularly where children are involved."

In essence, the FMA provides an

independent arbitration service to resolve some of the key problems in the areas of money, property, and children.

Whereas each of the individuals' solicitors will be seeking what they regard as being the "best" settlement for their clients, the FMA solicitor and lay person will be trying to achieve an agreement which is "fair" to both sides. Without attempting to bully or persuade couples into any specific agreement, the FMA provides a neutral forum in which counsellors and couples can work towards an agreement before reaching court.

"This is not a quick fix solution," Mr Bleiman says, "although where children are not involved it is certainly less complicated. We normally need between three and six sessions with each couple, but our success depends to large part on the attitudes of the man and woman before they arrive." In no way does the FMA seek to replace the role of the couple's solicitors. But by acting as conciliators the FMA aims to forestall the slide into outright war which bedevils most divorces.

"At the end of each conciliation we prepare a report which details the agreements which have been

reached and this report is then sent to the respective solicitors for their consideration," Mr Bleiman says. "If they are unhappy with it, they are free to reopen discussions."

In general, Mr Bleiman feels that solicitors are ill-equipped to deal with the sensitive issue of children. That is why, where possible, the FMA tries to involve the children directly in the discussions, so that they can express their own wishes.

It is also invaluable to have the participation of the lay person, normally a qualified counsellor. "I think that our real strength is that we have a combination of skills and backgrounds in our lay person and lawyer. They act as a team to provide complementary skills and knowledge," Mr Bleiman says.

Charging an average rate of £120 per hour for a couple, the FMA is not designed to be a big money spinner for the lawyers involved.

"In general, solicitors join the FMA because it enhances the quality of their professional life. We are finding that younger lawyers in particular gain a tremendous sense of satisfaction if they succeed in helping to achieve an agreement."

Although only about half the country is covered by the FMA, there is great demand to go on its training courses. Lord Mackay's comments last week may well give it the additional boost it needs.

For more information, contact Lisa Parkinson, Director FMA, The Old House, Rectory Gardens, Henbury, Bristol BS10 7AQ.

INNS AND OUTS

We are powerfully reminded of Britain's poor record on refugees and people seeking asylum by Rabia Janjua, a 27-year-old Pakistani mother of two, who faces death by stoning or imprisonment and 30 lashes under Pakistan's Hudood Ordinance if the Home Office carries out its decision to remove her as an illegal immigrant. A removal order carries no right of appeal, although it can be lifted at the Home Office Minister's discretion. The Home Office, however, has refused to consider Mrs Janjua's case, even though she could be sentenced to death, has two children aged four years and five months, speaks no English, cannot read and write her mother tongue and has suffered a history of violence from her husband. He has now fled the country with her documents.

Alf Dubs, director of the British Refugee Council, has recently spoken out on Britain's record on refugees — we take far fewer than any other prosperous Western European country, there is a worrying increase in forced repatriations among people whose fear of persecution is well founded, and refugees who are admitted are often granted "exceptional leave to remain", not refugee status, which prevents them being joined by their families. Mrs Janjua's case has been taken up by Bobby Chan, a lawyer at the Central London Law Centre, who was approached by the Asian community organization, Southall Black Sisters. Mr Chan has had to deal with three separate removal orders against Mrs Janjua in the past three weeks and feels the case is not being helped by apparent communication breakdowns at the Home Office. He has now applied for Mrs Janjua to be granted refugee status. Past interventions by Mrs Janjua's husband in her affairs, however, may prejudice her application, which anyway relies on the discretion of the minister, Timothy Renton.

A project providing specialist legal services in public and administrative law has been set up with grants from the European Community, the Bar and the Law Society. The project will employ solicitors and other specialists to conduct research and to undertake litigation on referral from advice agencies. The centre's first directors include Stephen Sedley, QC, Kate Markus, of Brent Law Centre, and Richard de Friend, of Kent University's legal department. Ms Markus expects the centre to deal with cases arising, for example, from cuts to local authority services, and to be able to advise on legal duties, financial implications and methods of enforcement. Mr Sedley hopes it will make people aware of available remedies and bring academic and practical legal expertise together. The centre can be found at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

The Law Society's latest briefing on the Courts and Legal Services Bill confirms that the society has despaired of succeeding in the House of Lords. It concludes that on rights of audience "the judges should have a consultative rather than a decision-making role if Parliament is to be sure that the Bill's aim of widening clients' choice is to be achieved". It has decided to focus its time and effort on the House of Commons where, it has concluded, "most of these issues can more fruitfully be taken up". However, while the Bar's strong Lords lobby may then be out of sight, it will not be out of mind.

During the long debate over the future of the legal profession, the Law Society is taking no chances with its staff's health as they burn the midnight oil preparing the case for the Commons. In a leaflet entitled "Look After Your Heart", its personnel department extols the virtues of exercise, listing 10 reasons why exercise benefits the individual. Under the heading "Why does the Law Society care?" the leaflet concludes that healthier employees mean a healthier work-force, raising the real possibility of, *inter alia*, a longer working life; good public relations inside and outside the organization; and reduced stress. With the showdown over tricky questions such as the cab rank rule and judges' vetoes looming, the society obviously does not intend to be caught napping.

Scrivener

John Ellwood questions the trend to exclude some serious offences from trial by jury in the Crown Court

Picture a young man walking down the street with a sawn-off length of scaffolding pole hidden inside his coat and a piece of spark-plug in his pocket, and wearing a pair of stout gloves. What is he up to? For those of us who practise in the criminal courts in the north of England the answer is clear: he is going to "scuff" a car.

He will approach the car and flick the piece of spark-plug at the side window, which will shatter (known in the trade as "popping"). His hands protected by his stout gloves, he will reach under the ignition barrel and rip off its plastic casing. He will then fit the scaffolding pole over the ignition barrel, pull sharply down and snap off the barrel. Then he will then push a piece of metal into the broken ignition system and start the car. If he is expert, it will take less than five minutes. Now

Summary offensiveness

pick the odd one out of these three offences: (a) shoplifting; (b) taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent (joy-riding); (c) driving while disqualified from driving.

The answer is clear. Shoplifting is the only offence which is triable both in a magistrates' court and in the Crown Court. The other two offences are triable only in a magistrates' court. Such offences carry a maximum punishment of six months' imprisonment on each offence, up to a maximum of 12 months. Offences which are triable at the Crown Court carry much higher maximum punishments.

The Criminal Justice Act of 1988

effectively made the quite serious offence of "taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent" a summary offence, which means that it is triable only in the magistrates' court. Previously it was also triable in the Crown Court. It must certainly be open to question why this was done. The effect of making the offence summary only reduces the maximum punishment and reduces the seriousness of the offence in the eyes of the sentence.

There is, of course, another side to this. Most people believe that if they are charged with a fairly serious offence, they have a right to be tried before a judge and jury. But for

some reason the legislature has decided to exclude the offence of taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. So that if, for example, you were wrongly accused of stealing a pencil from Woolworth, you could elect to have the matter tried before a jury; but if you were wrongly accused of taking a Rolls-Royce for a joyride, you would not have the same right.

It is a matter of concern to lawyers that this trend continues. The offence which caused most concern previously was that of assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty. This was

triable summarily only, and a client did not have the right to elect to be tried before a judge and jury. This was always seen as an anomaly.

Surely, if the trend is to continue it must be a matter of public concern. It is not possible to outline here all offences which are triable summarily only, but they include driving while disqualified and causing criminal damage to a certain value. One wonders what will be next on the list.

One consolation, I suppose, is that the Bar's almost paranoid fear of solicitors having the right to practise in the Crown Court may not now be relevant, because it may be the legislators' plan to reduce the number of cases going to the Crown Court, rendering it uneconomic for a solicitor to appear there.

The author is a partner in the firm of Tilley, Bailey & Irvine, Hartlepool.

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In addition to an attractive salary there is also an excellent range of benefits which you would associate with this position and a large and successful organisation.

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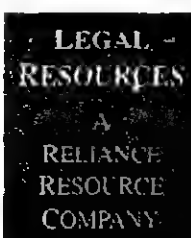
If you want to know more about how we can help you develop your legal career call Assistant Head of Legal Services, Alan Muir on 01-686 4433 ext. 2737.

Application form and full details are available from the Administrative Services Manager, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS, or by calling 01-686 4433 ext. 3877.

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Candidates aged late 20's to early 30's should be qualified as a barrister or solicitor with 2-3 years post qualification experience in commerce or industry, preferably in an international environment. The comprehensive benefits package includes a fully-expensed car, medical insurance, pension scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. or telephone for a Personal History Form to: J.W. Conchie, Hoggett Bowers plc, George V Place, 4 Thames Avenue, WINDSOR, SL4 1QP. 0753-850851, Fax: 0753-853339, quoting Ref: W20024/T.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

County Secretary

£39,441-£43,389

We have decided to establish a County Secretary's Department to cover all legal and central administrative aspects of the Council's work. Heading the Department and as a member of the Chief Officers' Management Team, the County Secretary will have an outstanding opportunity to contribute significantly to the future development and strategy of the County Council.

A legal background and qualification is essential and you will also need to demonstrate exceptional management and leadership skills gained at the highest level. The post is based in Northallerton, a market town within easy reach of some of Britain's finest countryside, including the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks.



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Further details and application forms, returnable by 6.4.90, available from the Personnel Section, Chief Executive's Department, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL HEART AND CHEST HOSPITALS

Director of Personnel

Salary: Senior Managers Pay Scale spine point 11 £28,040 inclusive of London Weighting, plus performance related pay

This group of postgraduate teaching hospitals comprises the Brompton and National Heart Hospital, due to move into Phase I of a new building in Chelsea this year, and the London Chest Hospital, situated in Bethnal Green. Together with the associated National Heart and Lung Institute, they specialise in all aspects of heart and lung disease with emphasis on new medical developments, research and teaching.

Applications for this new post are invited from those who have demonstrated achievement or shown high potential either within or outside the NHS. An appropriate professional qualification and relevant experience are essential.

The Director will be expected to take a lead in assessing priorities for the 1990's, setting up personnel policies and procedures and identifying management and organisational developments in a period of great change. He/she will be a member of the Senior Management Group and will give an important advisory and support service to the Chief Executive and Unit General Managers.

Initially the appointment will be made for a period of four years.

A job description and other relevant information may be obtained from John Plant, the Chief Executive, who would also welcome informal discussions with potential applicants. Tel: (01) 352 8121 ext. 4002.

Applications, by curriculum vitae, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be addressed to: Mr. J. R. Plant, Chief Executive, National Heart and Chest Hospitals, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Closing date: 20th April 1990.

BROADLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE £28,000 plus car

The Association currently owns and manages 1,600 units of rented accommodation valued at £60m. The Board has recently adopted a Business Plan with a £15m development programme over the next five years including an element of private sector funding.

The Chief Executive is the principal adviser to the Board and will be responsible to the Members for the implementation of the Plan and the effective management of the Association's property portfolio. The person appointed will be required to lead and motivate the Association's multi-professional team.

Management skills are a paramount requirement but financial knowledge, experience of housing associations and the work of district councils would be an advantage. The person appointed will probably have a professional qualification.

The post is based in Norwich and arises from the forthcoming retirement of the present Chief Executive.

Further written particulars may be obtained from

The Chairman
Broadland Housing Association Limited
100 Saint Benedicts, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4AB

CMS

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY HAS A VACANCY FOR A REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR SOUTH AND EAST ASIA

Based at the Society's London headquarters, this is a senior management post which includes corporate responsibility for the conduct of the Society's affairs.

Each Regional Secretary is the Society's ambassador in his or her region, and is responsible for creating and maintaining relationships of trust and partnership with leaders of the church and its institutions, including the making of financial provisions, enabling the movement of people across cultures, and other creative initiatives. There is extensive overseas travel.

Applicants may be male or female, lay or ordained. The successful candidate will be a person of Christian vision with a strong commitment to world mission. He or she will have the ability to think theologically and to identify political, economic, religious and cultural issues in the region. Communications, human relations and administrative skills are also important. Knowledge of the Hindu or Buddhist traditions and experience of one of the leading cultures of the region are desirable.

Salary will be within a scale from £16,168 pa to £19,762 pa, starting point to be determined according to experience. There is a London Allowance of £1,500 pa. Other benefits include a contributory pension scheme, housing loan facility and 30 days annual holiday.

For further information please contact Gavin Bagg, Personnel Secretary, The Church Missionary Society, 137 Watney Road, London SE1 8DU. Telephone 01-928 8881. Fax 01-481 3821. The closing date for completed applications is 11 May 1990.

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Salary: £14553 to £17025

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An information package and application form are available from the Assistant Personnel Officer, Police Headquarters, PO Box 999, Lincoln LN5 7PH. Tel. Lincoln (0532) 558231. Closing date: 30th March 1990.

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Vicini says the British style is poorly suited for victory in World Cup

English chances for Italy dismissed

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Milan

England have been dismissed as potential champions of the world by Giorgio Vicini. When the manager of Italy was asked yesterday whether the nations which might be able to win the World Cup in July, he was gracious and witty enough to mention the names of no fewer than nine.

England, held to a goalless draw in Wembley by Italy five months ago, were not among them. The highest they rank in Vicini's opinion, is to be included anonymously among "the 15 or 16 countries who have a hope because the tournament promises to be so open".

He believes that the principal threats to his own side will be the holders of three main titles. As well as Brazil, the champions of South America, and the Netherlands, the champions of Europe, he surprisingly includes Argentina, who won the World Cup in 1986 but have recently shrunk in stature.

Conveniently, Vicini has been able to gauge the trio's present form. Italy's only defeat since the European championship was inflicted by Brazil, with a lone goal in October, and both Argentina, in a wretchedly ugly and ill-disciplined affair in Argentina, and the Netherlands, held his side to goalless draws last month.

The Soviet Union, Spain and Uruguay were all bracketed among the dangers lurking beneath the favourites. Czechoslovakia was chosen as the most obvious example of a dark horse and West Germany, as usual, cannot be discounted. The rest of the field were not worthy of genuine consideration.

Scotland and the Republic of



Spelling it out: Vicini, the manager of Italy, instructs the group of players, who will he believes, provide "the stars of the tournament"

Ireland were excluded from his expansive list as well. "The British style is appreciated throughout the world," Vicini said. "It is energetic, athletic and physical but fair." By implication, the domestic representatives promise to play insignificant, albeit "interesting", parts in the overall play.

Although he confessed that his knowledge of Colombia was limited

to watching them on television against England, he is convinced that the South American contingent will otherwise feel at home. "So many of them are the stars in the Italian League that they will be well supported here."

The countries from the Third World, too, are in his view no longer merely making up the numbers. The Africans, in the shape of Egypt and

especially Cameroon, who are to open the tournament against Argentina on June 8, could be "ready to enter the World Cup spotlight".

In deflecting the criticism aimed at his own side, which has scored only one goal in the last five games, Vicini claimed: "We will have a good team." Moreover, he predicted that three or four of his individuals will be "the stars of the

tournament". For safety's sake, perhaps, he preferred not to name them.

Vicini cannot be accused of failing in his preparatory duties. Yesterday he flew on a spying mission to Budapest to check on the qualities of the United States, the weakest of the World Cup finalists, who are to play Hungary. That is how he will spend his 57th birthday.

Camaraderie and competition for armchair viewers

From the big sporting occasions last week, two moments glimpsed on television at Cheltenham, the better jockeys in the Gold Cup pressing forward to congratulate Graham McCourt on his 100-1 winner, at Murrayfield, a concerned Scottish captain leaning over the prostrate form of an injured English forward.

Jump racing and rugby are hard physical occupations and breed a special camaraderie. The cameras caught the generosity behind the fierce competition.



Sir Ian Trethowan, the chairman of the Horseracing Levy Board and of Thames Television, with a personal appraisal of the week's television sport

Television is most effective at close quarters. At Murrayfield we saw clearly all the grapping shoulders, the scrum, the heaving shoulders, the escaping boots. On one occasion we knew before the referee why the touch judge was attracting his attention.

When the ball breaks free, the viewer sometimes loses the positioning of the two sets of backs, but on Saturday the experienced commentary of Bill McLaren complemented the picture and, for moments of high drama, there were always replays from different angles. (But perhaps McLaren could spare some Scottish viewers too many filly references to "the big lad" from Auchy whenever.)

Rugby is a gift for television: 80 minutes of continuous action punctuated by one brief interval. Viewers who know little about the finer points, or even the basic rules, are quickly caught up in the bruising cut and thrust.

Racing presents more of a problem: a few minutes of action, separated by up to half an hour of post-mortem on things past, and analysis of what is to come. All fascinating to racing people, but not to the uncommitted viewer.

The broadcasters meet the problem in different ways. The BBC concentrates on the big events to which it has access, and covers them with skilful camera work and well-informed commentary. Julian Wilson has the good anchorman's gift of being able to operate on three levels at the same time - talking to camera, listening through his earpiece to his producer and thinking what to ask the nervous interviewee waiting out of sight. At Cheltenham he was supported by a quartet of articulate former jockeys and, once the race was on, there was the inimitable commentary of Peter O'Sullivan. Superlatives have been exhausted over Peter's skill. In his own specialised milieu, I rate him the equal of the greatest outside broadcast commentator of them all, Richard Dimbleby.

The BBC does its big racing

occasions well - watch how they handle the Grand National in three weeks' time - but the more run-of-the-mill meetings are relegated to snippets in its Saturday afternoon *Grandstand* programme. No doubt the producers reckon that the uncommitted will wear just a few minutes of racing on the way back to their favoured athletics or motor racing.

Commercial television, on the other hand, has maintained regular, continuous coverage. When ITV dropped its Saturday afternoon sports magazine, Channel 4 picked up the option. Using the outside broadcast units of four ITV companies, it created Channel 4 Racing, broadcasting continuous live coverage on about 80 days a year, including the Derby and the other four Classics as well as visits to France and the Breeders' Cup in the United States. The coverage is as professional as that of the BBC, as are the commentators, latterly joined by an engaging, perceptive and unusually decorous John Francombe.

And Channel 4 adds a wild card: the hairy, loud-voiced, bizarrely-dressed John McChick. Some racing regulars may find him irritating, but viewers in general like him, particularly - and importantly for the ratings - those not necessarily hooked on racing.

There is, in fact, a third televised racing service available - SIS, the betting-oriented satellite channel covering at least two hours of racing meetings a day (and also dog racing) six days a week. At present it is available only to betting shops and a few racing professionals. In a few years, it might become accessible to the individual punter in his home, but it would have to be a subscription service and it is anyone's guess how many punters would be willing to pay, and how much.

The future of racing coverage is one more to add to the list of imponderables about television in the 1990s.

Taylor is unhappy at Aston Villa's live commitments

By Chris Moore
and Dennis Sigay

Graham Taylor, the Aston Villa manager, appeared to be at odds with his chairman, Doug Ellis, last night over the decision to put next month's first division match with Arsenal back four days so that it can be televised live from Highbury on Wednesday, April 11.

It means the championship leaders will go 10 days without a match after April 2 and will then play three matches in seven days over the Easter period. Under the terms of the contract between the Football League and ITV, the television company can alter the date of only three matches, which they have already done.

But it transpired yesterday that their request to the League for a fourth switch on

First division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A Villa	28	18	8	4	46	28	58
Liverpool	28	18	8	4	43	27	56
Arsenal	28	18	8	4	42	26	47
Chelsea	30	12	10	8	44	41	46
Nottingham Forest	29	15	8	6	32	23	44
Coventry	30	15	9	6	32	31	44

April 11 was granted after approval from both Arsenal and Villa.

Taylor was not in favour of the switch. "I cannot do anything about it, but then I am only the manager," he said sarcastically. "From a personal point of view I would have preferred the game to have played where it was. I cannot say I am really totally happy with it being moved because there is a difference to playing on a Saturday afternoon and under floodlights with the TV and everything else involved."

Barnwell dismissed by Walsall after lean run

John Barnwell was dismissed as Walsall manager yesterday after a run of 13 League games without a win. The club are seven points adrift at the bottom of the third division.

Barnwell, who still had two years of his contract to run, took over just over a year ago, but his failure to improve results led to him becoming the 26th manager to part company with a Football League club this season.

Paul Taylor, the club coach, will act as caretaker manager, starting with tonight's home game against Mansfield. Allan Clarke, who began his career at Walsall, will be the first candidate to be linked with the vacancy.

Malcolm Allen, the Welsh international forward, signed for Millwall from Norwich City in a £400,000 transfer yesterday. Barnwell was sacked on April 14.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Five holes in one

A tiny Welsh golf club could claim a place in the record books after five holes in one by their members in eight days.

The feat was accomplished on the nine-hole Hawarden course in Cwyd where Lynden Hinks-Edwards, the son, aged 14, of the Flintshire County captain, is believed to be the youngest player ever to hole in one.

Crewman mugged

Edwin Clark, Cambridge's foreman for the Boat Race, was still recovering at home yesterday after being mugged last Friday. Clark was set upon by seven or eight attackers and suffered a broken nose, a torn ear, and a wrenched shoulder.

Xinhua ineligible

Chen Xinhua, who looks likely to win next month's vote to be considered for England when he becomes eligible on May 15, has had his entry for the English national table tennis championships in Oldham refused because the tournament takes place on May 6 and 7.

Blow for Kent

The South African allrounder Ron Kneen will not be returning to Kent this summer because of knee trouble.

Standing down

Toulouse (AFP) - Albert Frasse, aged 72, who has virtually run French rugby single-handed for the past 22 years, will not seek re-election as president of the country's federation when his present term expires in 1992.

Mason coming on

Gary Mason, the unbeaten British heavyweight champion who underwent a retina operation on Friday, is "progressing satisfactorily" and should leave Manchester Eye Hospital soon.

Race cancelled

The British Long Distance Swimming Association has cancelled the annual race from Wigan to St Germans to King's Lynn because pollution levels are 14 times higher than the EC maximum in the River Ouse.

Changing faces

The changing generations of English squashes are reflected in the new national ranking lists which place Philip Kenyon outside the top ten and two rising teenagers, Peter Marshall of Leicestershire and Simon Parke of Yorkshire, among the elite.

Still champion

Atlantic City (Reuters) - Jeff Harding, of Australia, knocked out Nestor Giovannini, of Argentina, in the eleventh round to retain his World Boxing Council light heavyweight title on Sunday.

FOOTBALL

The consent came from Ellis who evidently regards the £46,000 fee Villa will receive as sufficient financial inducement.

Villa's championship aspirations will be put to the test at Loftus Road tonight against resurgent Queens' Park Rangers, who have lost only three matches out of 21 since Don Howe took over from Trevor Francis and Ray Wilkins arrived from Rangers.

The claims of Wilkins, now 33, who gained 84 caps for England until his last game three years ago, for a return to the international arena in World Cup year are being trumpeted. They can be further assessed against Villa, who have their own influential midfield inspiration in Gordon Cowan, aged 31, who gained the last of his six international caps in 1986 and has recently been mentioned by Bobby Robson, the England manager, as a possible late contender for a World Cup place.

Francis scored the three goals when Rangers decisively won 3-1 at Villa Park on September 23. That defeat left Villa four places from the bottom of the table. Now they are two points clear of Liverpool at the top.

Rangers are nine points clear of the relegation places, with games in hand, but Howe insisted that the side had not been influenced by their position in the lower half of the table.

"I've always been realistic and been aware of where we were but it had never been mentioned and you don't let it stop you trying to play the football you want to play."

As part of his preparations for this year's Wimbledon, Ivan Lendl, the world No. 1, has entered the Directi Tennis Invitational, Manchester Open, at Didsbury from June 18 to 23.

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TENNIS

Scheme to provide 60 indoor centres

By David Powell

A scheme which should help eliminate what was described yesterday as "the Wimbledon effect", and one which may help Britain regain its international reputation, is about to move past the knock-out phase.

Centre Court Tennis (CCT) is a commercial management plan to "revolutionize indoor tennis facilities in Britain", commencing the initial Tennis Initiative (ITI) programme funded by the Lawn Tennis Association, Sports Council and All England Club.

The aim is to provide up to 60 eight-court centres. Its operators are ready to intensify canvassing local authorities who, they say, can have a year-round tennis facility for £120,000 - a quarter of the cost - without commitment to running expenses.

Stephen Proctor, a sports marketing researcher, referred to "the Wimbledon effect", whereby people are attracted to play after the championships but are then lost.

ITI has 11 centres and is aiming at 50 over five years. The courts would be operated on a pay-as-you-play basis, with provision would be made for coaching.

"A small capital investment and a two-acre site is all we require from the local authorities," Holmes said.

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CRICKET

Argentina made to toil for the draw

From Paul Parker
Buenos Aires

The MCC tour to Argentina drew to a close yesterday at the end of the two-day unofficial "test" match at Belgrano. Three wickets to Simon Dennis in the first over of Argentina's second innings ended any flimsy hope the home side had of mounting a target of 188. Indeed they fought very well to earn an honourable draw.

The MCC bowlers, in particular Dennis and the leg spinner, Bookout, threatened annihilation, but they were thwarted by dogged resistance from the opposition captain, Chris Nino, and the more flamboyant Mike Morris. The latter had played well earlier in the day to save Argentina from following on.

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